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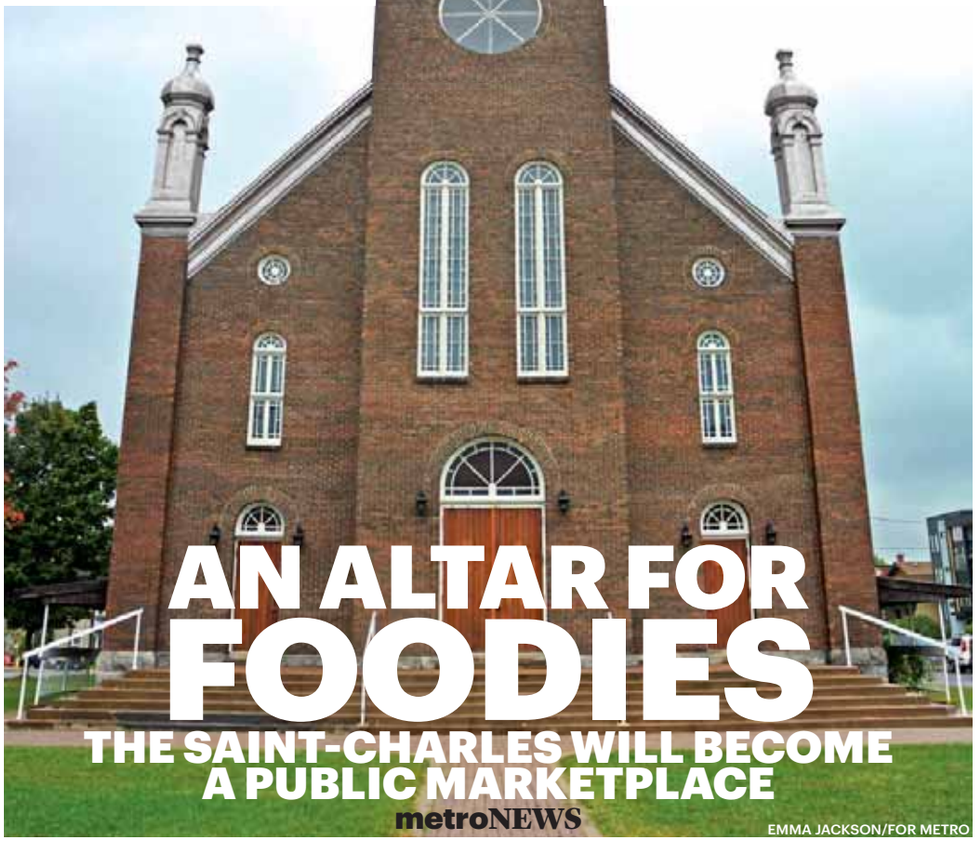

AN ALTAR FOR FOODIES

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metroNEWS

EMMA JACKSON/FOR METRO

All hands on deck for Syrian refugees

AID

City's institutions seeking ways to help with migrant resettlement

Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

From university sponsorships to fundraising pushes, it seems as if all hands are on deck in Ottawa to help with the Syrian refugee resettlement effort.

These efforts will culminate in the Syrian refugee forum on Thursday evening, when more than two dozen churches, non-profit groups and government agencies will meet to figure out how the City of Ottawa can help.

There will be a "special announcement regarding the co-ordination of sponsorship and resettlement efforts in Ottawa," according to a city press release.

Meanwhile, the city's post-secondary institutions are stepping up.

The students' association board of directors at Algonquin College has pledged $60,000 to help 12 full-time refugee students attending the school.

The University of Ottawa is starting a $400,000 fund for five new scholarships for refugee students, a new post-secondary certificate program to be offered in Lebanon to Syrian refugees and another program to help Canadians navigate the legalities of sponsorship.

The university is donating $200,000 to the fund and seeking donors to match that amount.

Carleton University has already sponsored two students from Syria and is looking to raise $12,500 to sponsor a third student.

After images of Syrian toddler Alan Kurdi's lifeless body went viral, many Canadians started looking for ways to help the Syrian resettlement effort.

Mayor Jim Watson has said he wants to fling open the city's doors to refugees.

FORUM

The forum on Syrian refugees will take place at Ottawa City Hall on Thursday starting at 5 p.m. There will be panel presentations starting at 5:30 p.m. and a legal clinic at 7 p.m.

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5 QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CITY'S 2016 BUDGET

It looks like City of Ottawa staff will be squeezing the 2016 budget to offset a projected $36.3 million in net pressures. The finance and economic development committee review the plan Tuesday. Meanwhile, here's the gist:

Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

1 What's causing the budget pressures?

It's a mix of winter maintenance from stormy weather earlier this year, Workers Safety and Insurance Board costs, wage arbitrated settlements from 2015 and 2014, vacancies in 24/7 city operations, and unachieved revenue targets, like sponsorship. The report projects budget pressure projections in 2017 and 2018 — $23.4 million and $24.2 million, respectively.

2 So how will the city deal with the $36.3 million?

Here are a few ways:
- Increase user fees (the report did not specify which user fees)
- Reduce costs that don't affect service, like advertising
- Set department efficiency targets for paramedics, winter operations and parks, buildings and grounds
- Review revenue budgets
- Ask the unions to pitch in and help
- Reserve funds for 2016 and 2017 budget pressures.

3 What if I have an idea on how we can save city money?

Then hit up one of the last three citywide budget consultations, which run until Oct. 8. You can also email budget2016@ottawa.ca. The 2016 draft budget will be tabled at council on Nov. 12, with the final document adopted on Dec. 9.

4 What does this mean for my property bill?

Not much out of the ordinary, as of yet. City staff is trying to find ways to tackle these budget pressures, keep taxes increases "at a predictable and affordable level" and maintain services. They are recommending a 1.75 per cent increase on property taxes. With provincial rules in place, that will amount to about two percent on your property tax bill, which funds city and police services.

5 So what about water and sewer?

It will be six per cent higher. Note that with these tax hikes (they do not include the transit levy. That will be 2.5 per cent higher. More on that on page 5), the city is still saddled with $36.3 million.

POLITICS

Website tracks MP votes

Shay Neufeld was just looking for a way to track members of Parliaments' voting records in the House of Commons.

It seemed like something that should exist. Neufeld was looking to see how MPs voted on Bill C-51, the government's anti-terror law.

He found openparliament.ca, a definitive resource for parliamentary proceedings. But with many different readings of each bill and no way to easily track a single MP's voting record, it wasn't what he needed.

When he realized no such tool existed, the 27-year-old Vancouver native, a PhD candidate in neuroscience at Harvard University, decided to create one. He enlisted his brother, Braden, a talented computer programmer and website designer to help.

The result is votes.mp, a searchable website that displays MPs' voting records dating back to 2006. It's searchable by member, riding, postal code, bill number and name, and allows users to look at a single politician's voting history in the House of Commons.

"We really just wanted to come down to a simple tool for people to use for a single purpose," Braden Neufeld said.

The brothers said the website has been garnering a couple of thousand views a day, and they're pleased that it's taking off and fostering discussion. During Monday night's leaders' debate, traffic on the site spiked whenever a particular bill was mentioned.

MICHAEL WOODS/METRO

Bars and the booze ban

TAVERNS & TROUBLEMAKERS

Exhibit showcases Ottawa during prohibition

Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

Fifty years ago, patrons in Nepean Township could finally publicly raise a glass in their hometown.

It was among the last municipalities to quench prohibition in 1965.

Ontario dried up in 1916 after lobbying from the buzzkilling temperance movement. The group was led by a chorus of Protestant evangelical types, many who immigrated from Europe in the 19th century.

By the time 1919 rolled around, 225 people had been arrested in the City of Ottawa for defying the Ontario Temperance Act.

The province lifted its booze ban in 1934, leaving it up to individual municipalities on whether to let their draughts flow. By the 1940s, Nepean residents could hop in the car and drive to the old City of Ottawa for a wee dram at the bar. (And, after a few drinks, they could have driven home, but that's a story for another day.)

The aptly named Taverns and Troublemakers exhibit opens at the City of Ottawa Archives at 100 Tallwood Rd. in Nepean on Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

It's full of interesting little tidbits about the days when serving beer was illegal. Like how Chateau Lafayette is Ottawa's oldest surviving tavern (it opened as Grant's Hotel in 1849). Or how "chimo," the Inuit word for "I'm Friendly," was Canada's official toast for its Centennial celebrations in 1967.

Palace Hotel bar, Lebreton Flats, 1912. COURTESY OF NEIL COCHRANE

A young woman pins what appears to be a name tag onto a man's jacket during a Youth Temperance rally in 1955. CITY OF OTTAWA ARCHIVES

Brewing signs on exterior of McEwen's store, corner of Leduc and Frontenac, Hull, circa 1920. CITY OF OTTAWA ARCHIVES

Crowd at Bill Haley and His Comets concert at the Chaudière Club, July 21, 1956. CITY OF OTTAWA ARCHIVES

Saturday Oct. 3:
"Stone" Soup by The Table Community Food Centre in support of "Restaurants for Change" (11am-2pm)
Mini pumpkin decorating station (1pm-4pm)
Pumpkin carving demo by artist Mowafak Nema (2:30pm–4pm)
Sunday Oct. 4:
Live Culinary Demo by Chef Eva Bee (1pm-3pm)
Family programming (1pm-4pm)
With a special outdoor screening of The Nightmare Before Christmas on Friday, October 2nd (6:30pm)
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Ottawa

Melissa Reeves welcomes residents into the former Saint-Charles church in Vanier. She said developer Modbox wants to maintain the facility's role as a community meeting place. EMMA JACKSON/METRO

New vision set for Vanier church

HERITAGE

Developer plans to transform building into indoor market

Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

Saint-Charles church off Beechwood in Vanier has always been a community meeting space, and the property's owners are more excited than ever to bring that back to the east-end neighbourhood.

The 107-year-old church welcomed 2,300 people last Saturday evening for a food truck rally in support of the Ottawa Community Housing Foundation.

The event was sponsored by the property's developer, Modbox, and its rousing success reaffirmed the developer's vision that this church can return to its roots as the centre of the community — not as a place of worship, but serving a different kind of devotee: foodies.

The plan is to turn the heritage church into a permanent indoor marketplace filled with local butchers, bakers and ice cream makers, according to Modbox's Melissa Reeves.

Similar to the St. Lawrence market in Toronto or the Chelsea market in New York City, the marketplace would be open year-round with individual shops selling their unique wares to the public.

> **This church has been an important part of the community, not just as a religious space. This has been a gathering space for over 100 years.**
> Modbox's Melissa Reeves

Between eight and 10 boutique shops hocking local meats, cheese and even flowers would be built into what used to be the church's sanctuary, with a hip new restaurant taking over in place of the altar. Of particular note is the inclusion of an ice cream shop, which Reeves said the neighbourhood sorely lacks.

Part of the wide aisle that once ushered blushing brides to their waiting grooms could give way to a stairway down to the basement, which would offer even more commercial space below.

The property's redevelopment includes six to eight stories of new housing around the church as well, but Reeves said the plan has always been to keep the former church intact as a neighbourhood hub.

"This church has been an important part of the community, not just as a religious space," Reeves said. "This has been a gathering space for over 100 years."

It's been the meeting place for Scout and Girl Guide groups, community associations and town halls. And a secret society to protect francophone interests — once 11,000 members strong — was founded in the basement.

Since a small group of investors bought the property last December, Modbox and its architectural partner Linebox have been serious about keeping that community tradition alive.

They hosted a public "apres snow" event in February and a summer solstice party in June. The food truck rally was by far the largest gathering to date.

The plans also include outdoor space for a seasonal farmer's market and a sculpture garden.

The church's exterior is designated heritage and has to be preserved, but Reeves said they plan to keep the bones of the sanctuary intact, as well. The church was once lavishly decorated, but in 1969 it underwent major renovations and most of that was lost in favour of a more modern look, according to Museoparc, Vanier's community museum. Still, the tall columns and high ceilings that give the church its grandeur still exist, and will be factored into the interior design.

"It's so beautiful, if you do anything to it you'll screw it up," Reeves said.

The altar will be turned into a restaurant as part of the property's redevelopment. EMMA JACKSON/METRO

Modbox will likely submit its site plans to the city this November, Reeves said, and they hope to get construction underway in 2017. The marketplace should be open by 2018.

OC Transpo out to balance budget

TRANSIT

Operator still needs to find 'efficiencies' after tax hike

Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

OC Transpo is raising its transit tax by 2.5 per cent in 2016 as the operator faces rising costs and flat ridership.

An early budget report released Tuesday asks staff to craft a transit budget that finds $24.5 million in new money while limiting the transit-tax increase to 2.5 per cent.

Between the $9 million extra collected through that hike and another $6.9 million coming from fares, OC Transpo will still have to find $8.6 million in "efficiencies" to avoid going into deficit.

That process has already started, according to transit commission chairman Coun. Stephen Blais. He said five management positions were cut this summer, and the system is "becoming more efficient in how some of the routes operate."

But that hasn't been enough to fend off a rising tide of extra costs. Insurance claims were much higher than budgeted in 2015, for example, and as warranties end on the city's fleet of hybrid buses, maintenance costs are rising, too.

> **We need to consider making sure we have an efficient and affordable system for the highest number of people that we can.**
> Coun. Stephen Blais

"In order to provide the same level of service doing the same work on the buses, we now have to spend more money," Blais said.

He said more details about OC Transpo's savings plan will come to the finance committee as part of the draft budget. He skirted the notion the transit operator is considering service cuts.

"We need to consider making sure we have an efficient and affordable system for the highest number of people that we can," he said.

Coun. Stephen Blais said changing the service's eligibility criteria doesn't have to cost more. EMMA JACKSON/METRO

ACCESSIBILITY

Para Transpo seeks to aid more for less

Just as the city prepares to tighten its belt, Para Transpo is considering how to serve people with intellectual and mental-health disabilities.

Provincial accessibility legislation covers both those groups, but right now Para Transpo's system decides each case based on how well the person can use OC Transpo.

When someone is denied, it's often because their illness is fickle: someone with anxiety, for example, may feel able to take the regular bus some days but not all.

This kind of "good day, bad day" condition is hard to assess, and right now it's not even part of Ottawa's equation. But it could be: Calgary has done it, offering several conditional categories. "Direct riders," for example, use accessible transit only when the regular bus would require a transfer beyond their capability.

But Anu Bose, who participated in Para Transpo's consultations, said all these good ideas were ignoring "the elephant in the room": what it's going to cost.

"We're making all these wild demands without knowing what's actually feasible," she said.

According to transit commission chairman Coun. Stephen Blais, the changes don't have to cost more if current users can be encouraged to take OC Transpo when they're able.

"Then we'll have more capacity within Para Transpo to transport those who have no other option," Blais said.

That's certainly the goal for Catherine Gardner, who uses a motorized wheelchair. She said there's no incentive for Para Transpo users to transfer from Para to regular transit because they've already paid for their trip.

She said bringing the Presto payment system into Para Transpo would encourage more cross-traffic. Creating a "hub and spoke" system connected to conventional transit stations would also free up space on accessible vans.

"I see many, many people on Para Transpo who maybe should be on OC Transpo," she said. EMMA JACKSON/METRO

Revised Rideau plan scrutinized

City planner Randolph Wang interacts with residents at a recent public meeting. STEPH WILLEMS/METROLAND MEDIA

PLANNING

'Density redistribution' under fire

The city is crafting a new direction for the future of "uptown" Rideau Street — the stretch between King Edward Avenue and the Cummings Bridge — but the neighbouring community disagrees on what form it should take.

A public information meeting held recently at De La Salle High School brought city planners and residents together to discuss the city's revised community design plan (CDP) vision for the area.

The city claims it wants a more liveable and varied streetscape that avoids the canyon effect seen in the stretch of Rideau west of King Edward. Density redistribution would see taller building heights allowed on parts of select properties in exchange for community amenities such as privately-owned public space.

The original CDP called for consistent mid-rise development of up to six storeys on the south side of Rideau, with taller allowable heights on the north side. In the revised plan, several blocks on the south side would be able to accommodate 14- and 15-storey buildings.

"We feel that this stretch of Rideau (Street) is not suitable for any 'density redistribution,' which is a concept that allows towers of up to 15 or 25 storeys, provided the average density is not larger than that of a six- or nine-storey building," Action Sandy Hill stated on its website in advance of the meeting.

STEPH WILLEMS/METROLAND MEDIA

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CITY HALL

Hintonburg to get new street mural

Hintonburg, a community long known for its artistic prowess, is set to become a little more colourful.

On Sept. 22, the city's planning committee gave the green light to a planned mural that would adorn a concrete retaining wall that faces Garland Street, just south of Scott Street. Council voted in favour if it the following day.

Following the submission of a report by Kitchissippi Coun. Jeff Leiper, the committee waived two bylaws in order to allow the mural, whose actual street address would is 3 Lowry St. The installation is part of the city's mural program, an initiative designed to enliven streetscapes throughout the urban area.

The mural, which will be privately funded, was requested by the property owner of 3 Lowry in order to beautify the street, deter graffiti and promote the local arts scene.

"Roger Senecal, an area realtor, suggested painting a mural (on the wall)," said Leiper. "It has been a couple months in the works because it requires a rezoning ... I hooked him up with local artists and did a quick consultation with the Hintonburg Community Association's arts committee."

Leiper, who called the mural concept "absolutely gorgeous," said that with colder weather approaching, time was of the essence in requesting the rezoning. At committee, he asked his council colleagues to adopt the agenda item for the council meeting held the following day, something he wouldn't otherwise have done.

Normal process calls for the item to go to the council meeting two weeks hence, which would have seen approval granted in mid-October. The colder the temperatures, the less likely the mural would be painted before the onset of winter.

Ottawa artist ARPi has been tapped to paint the mural, which will be a depiction of urban plant and wildlife.

STEPH WILLEMS/METROLAND MEDIA

An artist's rendering shows what the future mural on Garland Street in Hintonburg will look like. CONTRIBUTED

IN BRIEF

Police seek fraud suspect

Police are looking for a man they believe is responsible for several frauds targeting visitors and patients at local hospitals.

In the first case on July 17, an elderly woman reported that her purse was stolen.

About $3,000 was spent on her debit and credit cards at ATMs and stores on Preston Street, Carling Avenue, and at the Bayshore Shopping Centre.

In another incident in September, a 45-year-old woman and the male patient she was visiting in a hospital both reported their wallets stolen. Police said the cards in the wallets were used at various ATMs and stores on Carling Avenue.

Witnesses describe the suspect as black, five-foot-10, between the ages of 40 and 50, wearing "distinctive clothing."

Anyone with information is asked to call Ottawa police. METRO

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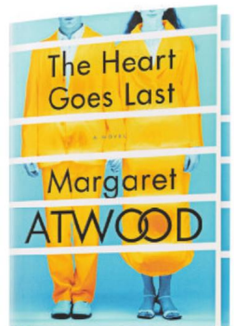

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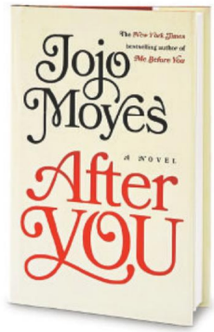

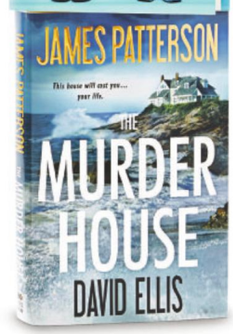

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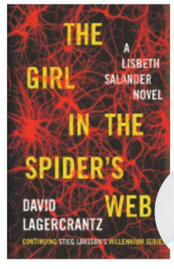

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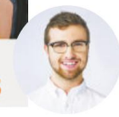

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Funding announcement for IVF delayed

HEALTH

Province holds off in order to hold more consultations

Would-be parents waiting to learn more about the Ontario government's funding of in-vitro fertilization treatments will have to wait a little longer.

Health Minister Eric Hoskins had been expected to announce details of the province's IVF plan Wednesday, but has decided to wait a little longer in order to hold more consultations.

Hoskins wouldn't say if the province will accept the recommendations of an expert panel that wants to exclude morbidly obese women and those over the age of 42 from funding for IVF.

Some patient advocates want the government to fund IVF for any woman who wants it, regardless of age and weight.

NDP health critic France Gelinas says the Liberals should make their decision based on scientific evidence, not on what will get them the most votes.

About two per cent of births in Ontario are a result of IVF, and Hoskins says the people will be able to get funding for the service before the end of this year.

The Liberals set up an advisory body to make sure high-quality practices are followed, including ensuring that only one embryo is used per treatment. So-called single-embryo transfer has been shown elsewhere to cut the number of twins, triplets and other multiple births that result from IVF treatments.

Patients paying for the service out of pocket now usually have two or more embryos transferred to increase their chances of pregnancy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BACKGROUND

The government announced last April that Ontario will become only the second province after Quebec to fund in-vitro fertilization for people unable to have children otherwise, and will pay the cost of one "cycle" of IVF treatment per patient.

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ELECTION CAMPAIGN

Candidates: Harper dividing Canadians

Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

Prime Minister Stephen Harper is fostering division when he suggests that elite opinion is "completely divorced" from what ordinary people think, opposition candidates said Wednesday.

In an interview with Metro on Tuesday, Harper was asked about his past comments regarding "elites."

"It's not that elite opinion doesn't matter," he said. "Expert opinion always counts. But you cannot govern well, and you cannot govern properly, unless you understand the values and realities of ordinary Canadians."

As an example, he cited the government's law that allows them to strip people convicted of terrorism offences of their Canadian citizenship, if they have citizenship from another country.

He said the other parties' opposition to the law "is kind of elite political correctness on steroids."

However, local NDP and Liberal candidates said Harper is simply trying to divide Canadians with such remarks.

"'Elite' is really anyone who disagrees with his ideological views," said Ottawa Centre Liberal candidate Catherine McKenna. "It could be the courts, the media, human rights organizations, often the legal community, or senior bureaucrats in the public service," she said.

Paul Dewar, the NDP incumbent in Ottawa Centre, said the Conservatives are trying to use the citizenship revocation law as a wedge issue.

He also said the Conservative government has often ignored or not sought the advice of public servants in creating certain laws.

"They just stovepipe it: they just go around the public service, they have their own point of view and it gets right into law … The end result, often, is a court challenge, and the laws are thrown out," he said. "The public service, the Supreme Court, anyone who has any background knowledge in this case in law is considered an elite."

Conservative Leader Stephen Harper THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Carleton gives its side in TA grievance

Carleton University says it intends to correct "unclear language" in its collective agreement with teaching assistants that resulted in grievance being filed by the union.

CUPE 4600 announced Tuesday that the university would repay teaching assistants to compensate for raised tuition. The university says the amount is $400,000 in total, not $400,000 per semester as union CUPE 4600 estimated.

"Carleton was not ordered, but agreed as part of the settlement to revert to past practice in the interim," said media relations officer Steven Reid.

He said the agreement has erroneously resulted in many students getting a "bonus," not a rebate. "The university expects the issue to be addressed in the next round of bargaining," he said. The collective agreement with TAs expires August 2016.

HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

Tory candidate a foodie at heart

ELECTION 2015

Piccini once considered opening his own restaurant

Jenna Guilbeault
Algonquin College

Its 5 a.m. and David Piccini is reaching to turn off his alarm clock — another 12-hour day of campaigning ahead. Before he makes his way to his office and focuses on a day of campaigning, he'll take his dog, Max, for a run somewhere in the Ottawa-Vanier riding.

The hustle and bustle of campaign season has left little time for Piccini to enjoy some of the things he loves most, such as being outdoors and exercising, but most importantly he's had to put his love for cooking and food on the back burner.

Many people don't know that Piccini is a foodie at heart.

"The running joke right now is that if I'm not on the campaign trail, I can be found at La Bottega in the ByWard Market grabbing a bite to eat," said Piccini.

And rightly so: La Bottega is a place that Piccini has held close to his heart since he was a student at the University of Ottawa several years ago.

"I cashed in my meal plan and decided I was going to cook all of my meals instead," said Piccini. "Shortly after that, I got a job at La Bottega."

Piccini inherited his passion for food and cooking from his Italian family, particularly his mother.

"My mom was a big influence in my cooking," said Piccini. "She was the one who taught me how to cook."

Piccini once won the Ottawa Foodie Challenge, and he even considered opening his own Italian restaurant.

"I was faced with a dilemma after I left the public service," said Piccini. "I had the choice to either go to Ed Fast's office, or … open my own restaurant."

Although it's tough being on the campaign trail every day, Piccini says food and culture have played a big role in where he is today, both in politics and his everyday life.

"I've built a life in Ottawa that I'm very proud of," said Piccini.

"I'm hoping to be Ottawa-Vanier's newest member of Parliament with a flair for food."

FULL COVERAGE

With the federal election now in full swing, Metro Ottawa and Algonquin College's journalism program have teamed up to provide the most comprehensive campaign coverage in the city.

We've assigned second-year journalism students to cover candidates in every riding in the Ottawa area, from Kanata to Orleans to Osgoode and everything in between.

Ottawa-Vanier Conservative candidate David Piccini greets a worker at La Bottega. Piccini says his Italian family's love for food had a big impact on him. CONTRIBUTED

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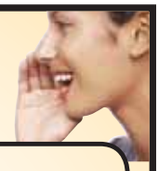

PART TIME
12 weeks (36 hours in class and 36 hours online)
FRENCH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (10 LEVELS)
September 29 to December 19, 2015
Evenings: 6 pm to 9 pm (10 Levels)
Saturdays: 9am to noon (8 Levels)
ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (7 LEVELS)
September 29 to December 19, 2015
Evenings: 6 pm to 9 pm (6 Levels) • Saturdays: 9 am to noon (2 Levels)
NEW! Saturdays: 9 am to noon – Nepean –September 26

FULL TIME
4 weeks (60 hours in class and 60 hours online)
FRENCH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (6 LEVELS)
October 19 to November 13, 2015
Levels 1, 3 and 5: 12:30 to 3:30pm
Levels 2, 4 and 6: 9am to noon
ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE
October 19 to November 13, 2015
NEW! Level 5: 9am to noon • Level 6: 12:30pm to 3:30pm

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Victim planned to leave soldier husband: Mother

MELISSA RICHMOND

Accused killer exaggerated his PTSD, court hears

Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

Four days before she was stabbed to death, Melissa Richmond told her mother she wanted to leave her PTSD-stricken soldier husband, who is now accused of first-degree murder in her death, court heard Wednesday.

The 28-year-old woman was found dead in a ditch behind a South Keys restaurant in July 2013 after her husband, warrant officer Howard Richmond, reported her missing to the OPP. Police say she had been stabbed multiple times.

The former soldier told the court he killed his wife, but his lawyers say he is not criminally responsible due to mental illness.

Howard's post-traumatic stress disorder was brought on by the "unspeakable horrors" he witnesses during tours in Afghanistan and other countries, the court heard at the beginning of the trial.

The illness took its toll on the marriage. Melissa used to be a "happy, very social" woman, her mother Millie Evans testified Wednesday, but she turned to anti-depressants in 2013.

Evans told the court that on July 20, 2013, Melissa arrived unannounced at her Petawawa home in tears.

The Richmonds were hit with financial woes after Howard bought a second home in Winchester, Ont., but neglected to do the necessary renovations on the first home to sell it, court heard.

"PTSD gave Howard an excuse to be lazy," Evans said.

Melissa wanted to leave, her mother said, but feared she would be in financial disarray if she went through with it.

> **I work on a military base. I see guys with real PTSD.**
> Millie Evans, mother of victim

"Her confidence was gone. She was fed up with everything."

The following morning, she went out to breakfast with her parents and she agreed to give the marriage one month to improve. That was the last day Evans saw her daughter.

Crown prosecutor Peter Napier said she was found with stab wounds to her head and neck.

In her testimony, Evans told the court she believed Howard wasn't being honest with police when they came to the house asking him about Melissa.

She told defence lawyer Jason Gilbert she also thought Howard exaggerated his illness — the crux of his defence.

Millie Evans, mother of Melissa Richmond (above) testified Wednesday her daughter wanted to leave her soldier husband, but was scared to for financial reasons. FACEBOOK

IN BRIEF

Thousands who bought used cars in May to get bill from Ontario tax man

About 6,500 Ontario residents who bought a used car in May will receive a letter from the Ministry of Finance seeking hundreds of dollars in unpaid sales tax.

The government says a third-party provider gave the wrong information on the wholesale value of used cars for almost the entire month of May, so buyers did not pay the appropriate amount of sales tax.

Finance Minister Charles Sousa says $2.4 million in retail sales tax was not collected on used cars and trucks sold across Ontario between May 1 and 27.

Sousa says it's unfortunate that the ministry has to send letters with assessment notices advising those affected of the additional tax they owe.

Officials say most will have to pay about $100 to $500 in sales tax, which the minister says is only fair to everyone else who purchased a used car and paid the proper amount of tax.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ottawa, can you handle this?

BACKSTAGE PASS

Beyoncé party, MonkeyJunk, whacky rap on weekend bill

Trevor Greenway
Metro | Ottawa

Revellers jam the dance floor at Babylon during last month's Bey Bey dance party.
KRISTEN HAYES/FOR METRO

Babylon, can you handle this? DJs, can you handle this?

I'm pretty sure they can handle this.

The monthly Bey Bey All Night Dance Party is back on at Babylon this weekend and DJs Sacha Foster, Max Zimmerman and Jimmy C are ready with crates and crates, well, digital crates, of Beyoncé showstoppers that will have all the Single Ladies on the dance floor, telling creeps to put a ring on It.

Expect dance-offs, sing-alongs and a whole lot of bumpin' and grinding as the three DJs spin classic and fresh new Beyoncé tunes, as well as "dance floor anthems every good party requires." The party starts at 10 p.m. at Babylon.

But dancing to Bey isn't the only thing on the musical docket this weekend. There are loads of other options to get your funk on. Here's a shortlist of parties worth checking out in the city and beyond.

Beau's Oktoberfest

B.C. indie rockers Yukon Blonde and Toronto indie pop group Alvvays take over Vankleek Hill this weekend for the epic Beau's Oktoberfest. The beer celebration will feature over 50 local craft breweries as well as more than 15 live bands playing shows throughout the weekend. This is a beer fest where you can get a little crazy, so grab your lederhosen, plan to drink way too much and pass out on the lawn to some great music.

What: Beau's Oktoberfest w/ Yukon Blonde, Alvvays

Where: Vankleek Hill

When: Oct. 2-3

Why go: What's better than beer and music? Chug-a-lug.

MonkeyJunk CD Release Party

Did you catch the moon turn red during the lunar eclipse last weekend? If you missed it, Ottawa blues-rock band MonkeyJunk has a surprise for you. The band is releasing its new album Moon Turn Red during a CD release party at the Rainbow Bistro this weekend and you're all invited to catch the rare sight. The new record boasts soul, funk and the occasional "goose bump inducing love song." Don't miss the eclipse twice in one month.

What: MonkeyJunk CD release party

Where: The Rainbow Bistro

When: Oct. 2 and Oct. 3

Why go: MonkeyJunk is one of Canada's premiere roots-blues rock bands and they're from your hood. Support these hardworking dudes and they'll pay you back with a damn good night.

Tech N9ne Special Effects tour

Underground hip-hop mogul Tech N9ne brings his off-the-wall hip hop to Ritual this weekend. There's a reason why he named his label Strange Music over 30 years ago. His music is different and risky. This guy will blow you away. And he's got a notable list of locals opening up the show, including Alex Lost, Ickarus and Proper 'T. Giddy up!

What: Tech N9ne Special Effects Tour

Where: Ritual Nightclub

When: Oct. 3.

Why to go: You'll walk away from this show thinking, "I've seen it all."

The Slow Century at Irene's

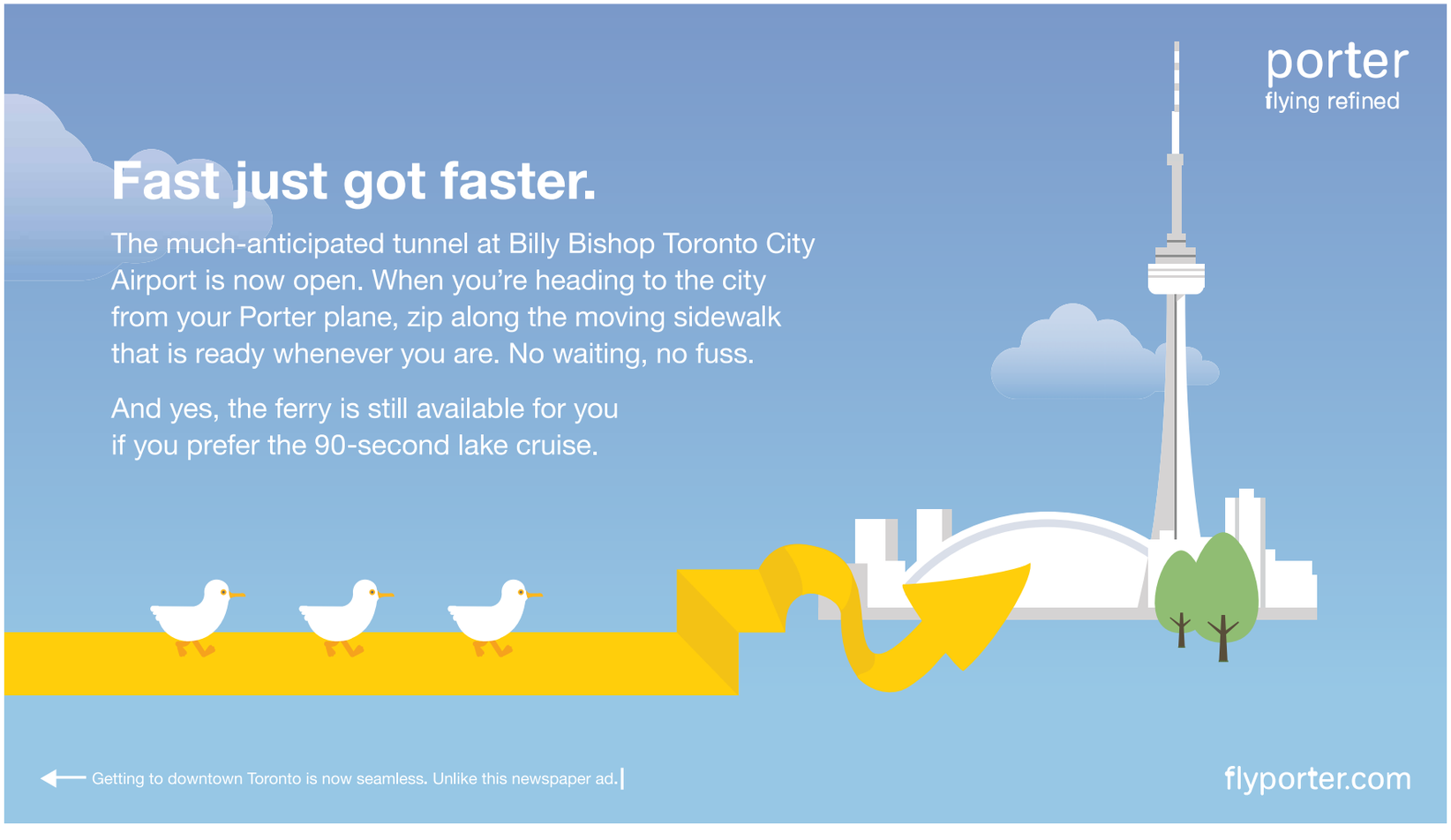
You know those awesome dudes who give us all gripping court stories, essential traffic updates and thoughtful sports and entertainment stories every day? Well, the Ottawa Sun's Aedan Helmer and Tony Spears as well as CBC traffic reporter Doug Hempstead have joined forces with Ben Mullin to form The Slow Century. The band is essentially a cover band, but with an original flair that is apparent over renderings of Radiohead, Neil Young and The Band. The show starts at 10 p.m. and if they're late, Hempstead is probably stuck in traffic.

What: The Slow Century

Where: Irene's

When: Oct. 3

Why to go: They tell the stories of your day, let them tell you a bedtime story.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READY TO ENGAGE

Metro's coast-to-coast daily election series connects young, urban Canadians to the issues they care about

VOTER PROFILE

Name: Bailey Reid **Age:** 30 **Riding:** Ottawa Vanier
Her issues: Violence against women, women in leadership roles

Wanted: Focus on women's issues

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
in Ottawa

One thing dominates Bailey Reid's politics: The inequality of the sexes.

"You can talk about representation in Parliament, you can talk about child care, you can talk about violence against women, but I think that it does need that deeper analysis to show these are all results of women not being equal in Canada," she says.

Reid called Stephen Harper "the most absent" from the discussion. Neither he nor his status of women minister participated in the recent leader event devoted to women's issues — which touched on child care, violence against women, and women in leadership roles.

While NDP's Thomas Mulcair and Liberal's Justin Trudeau participated, Reid found those leader's analyses missed that point. No leader has been identifying inequality as the root cause, nor underlining the ludicrousness of segregating key issues for half the voting public under the ill-fitting "women's issues" banner — with the exception of Elizabeth May.

"Part of me wants to vote Green because I'm sick of (Elizabeth May) being ignored," Reid says. The Green leader was barred from the debates on the economy and on foreign policy, and Reid seems incredulous that a feminist reading of economic policy was missing from the other leaders' comments.

"It would be nice to see a woman taken seriously, and it does feel very, pat pat on the head, 'That's cute Miss May, but you can't come.'"

But Reid won't be voting Green, because her local candidate doesn't have good odds.

The 30-year-old's riding, Ottawa Vanier, is staunchly Liberal, and likely to remain so. Reid says her natural political home has been the Liberal Party, so she's likely voting that way again on Oct. 19. But she admits to some waffling. She likes the NDP's strategies on violence against women and national child-care plans.

Justin Trudeau's opaque comments that misogyny is fuelled by "certain kinds of music" and absent fathers certainly didn't impress Reid. "I wish he had a really good gender adviser," she quips. But the Liberals' promise to bring gender equity to cabinet is promising, she says, and so too the promise of a missing and murdered indigenous women inquiry. Trudeau is clearly willing to talk about inequality and sexism, she adds.

And that's the least that Reid is hoping for in this election: A prime minister willing to start talking more about women.

Rosemary Westwood is travelling across the country talking to young voters. She'll be in Toronto on Thursday.

'Fastest-growing industry' ignored

Tech industry is accusing leaders of poor planning

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Federal leaders must show concrete plans on how technology will feature into their vision of the country, a local tech company has said.

Just days after founders of Lighthouse Labs wrote to Stephen Harper, Justin Trudeau and Thomas Mulcair expressing the tech community's disappointment over the lack of discussion on how to boost the country's economy through technology, Liberals responded swiftly.

Justin Trudeau announced Tuesday in Winnipeg a $900-million commitment to advance tech innovations and startup incubators.

"That's what we've been looking for from every leader," said Jeremy Shaki, co-founder of the web and mobile software development company. He described Trudeau's move as "phenomenal" but was quick to add sustainability is key.

"I'm not just asking for them to throw money everywhere, but specifically where does tech fit into their plans?" he said.

In the letter, the group had accused leaders of completely ignoring the technology industry in their discussions, and only focusing on short-term things "just to help them win certain votes, overlooking the fastest growing industry in North America."

Shaki remained critical of the leaders' commitment to transform the country's education sector by incorporating technology in the system.

"It's a shame. How are we voting on people when we have absolutely no idea how they'll be approaching these critical issues?" he said.

Groups in the tech industry have done "a phenomenal job" without much support from the government, and it's time leaders commit to promoting technological innovations, he said.

Lighthouse Labs believes most of tomorrow's job markets will require basic levels of web design and coding. The company has taken its trainings throughout the country, helping a total of its 300 graduates to land jobs with tech companies. Its HTML500 summer series have helped over 2,500 young Canadians learn basic skills in coding for free.

"Coding as a tool is so much like math," said Shaki, adding Canada should emulate nations like the U.K. and introduce coding classes in elementary and high schools, making it a mandatory subject.

"Even if you don't become a developer, knowing to code will help you find creative, logical and critical solutions."

There needs to be a top-down approach, or at least a conversation from the top about how to grow this industry, he said.

Company critical of commitment to transform the education sector by incorporating technology in the system. GETTY IMAGES

> **The technology industry has been completely ignored through all debates.**
> Jeremy Shaki

BY THE NUMBERS

Technology in Education

How other countries around the globe are schooling Canada on the future

</> England's new curriculum teaches the basics of coding as early as **5 years old**

</> Estonia is teaching **first graders** how to create their own computer games

The American "Hour of Code" effort says it has already persuaded **28 MILLION** people to give programming a try.

SOURCE: THE NEW YORK TIMES

Tories defend TPP trade deal

CARETAKER CONVENTION

Pact ignores protocol that limits activities during election

The Conservatives are conducting negotiations toward a massive 12-country trade deal — that could well prove to be their campaign centrepiece — in secret in the middle of an election, the Liberals and NDP charged Wednesday.

As Justin Trudeau unveiled the Liberal health-care policy plank, one of the last remaining pieces of his party's platform, and NDP Leader Tom Mulcair promised to establish a parliamentary science officer to advise his would-be government, the Conservatives were answering awkward questions about the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which could be announced, in some form, as early as Friday.

Joe Oliver, in a rare national campaign appearance, defended the government's right to conduct official business during the election period.

The finance minister rejected suggestions that the government's continued pursuit of the TPP is a violation of the so-called "caretaker convention," which is supposed to limit government activity during an election period.

"There is a protocol in place and we of course consult with the Privy Council on these issues," Oliver said.

"When there's a matter of importance or urgency for the government to deal with in the national interest then it's appropriate for us to do that. And this is certainly one of those cases."

The convention also stipulates that governing parties are expected to consult opposition parties on matters that could end up tying the hands of future governments.

Trudeau flat out said he had "not been approached by anyone in government on the Trans-Pacific Partnership."

"One of the things that we've seen over the past years with this government is an approach that has been secretive, non-transparent, that hasn't let Canadians know what it is negotiating and how it is negotiating, what is on the table," he said in Surrey, B.C.

"It would be unrealistic for us to expect that the whole world will stop and wait with bated breath for the outcome of Canada's election. But what we need to know is that our government is negotiating in a way that is going to enhance Canadian opportunities and growth while protecting our interests."

Trade Minister Ed Fast is in Atlanta for a renewed round of negotiations, and speculation is rampant that an agreement in principle could emerge by the end of the week.

Mulcair said he is "very worried" about what Prime Minister Stephen Harper is willing to put on the table.

"I don't trust Stephen Harper as a negotiator," he said in Iqaluit. "He's not good at it. He has an ideological bent that means he doesn't care about what happens here at home. ... We've been asking the prime minister to defend our supply management system in its entirety and we'll accept nothing less."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Federal finance minister and Conservative candidate Joe Oliver speaks during a press conference in Toronto on Wednesday. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

WHERE THE LEADERS ARE THURSDAY

- **Stephen Harper** has no public events.
- **Justin Trudeau** will be in Montreal.
- **Tom Mulcair** will be in Montreal.
- **Elizabeth May** will be in Victoria, B.C.

IN BRIEF

Former Quebec lieutenant-governor sentenced to 18-month jail term

Calling her behaviour "highly reprehensible" and part of a "culture of deceit," a judge sentenced former Quebec lieutenant-governor Lise Thibault to 18 months in prison on Wednesday.

The sentence was handed down six years after Thibault, now 76, was charged with fraud and breach of trust.

The Queen's former representative left the courtroom in handcuffs in her wheelchair and was then incarcerated.

Thibault was charged two years after a 2007 report by the federal and provincial auditors general revealed she claimed more than $700,000 in improper expenses when she held the vice-regal post between 1997 and 2007.

Her trial heard the money was spent on gifts, trips, parties, meals and skiing and golf lessons.

Thibault was ordered to reimburse $200,000 to Ottawa and $100,000 to Quebec. THE CANADIAN PRESS

AIR TRAVEL

Stop separating families: Minister

Canada's transport minister quietly wrote to the heads of every major airline in the country earlier this year in an effort to stamp out a practice where parents were being seated separately from their children on flights.

In the March letter, Lisa Raitt called the issue one "where logic should prevail" and encouraged the airlines to ensure parents were seated with their young children whenever possible.

She asked airlines to come up with some way to eliminate such incidents, provide "greater predictability" to parents and "minimize the challenges that parents face when they embark on air travel with children."

A briefing note accompanying the letter suggests the missive wasn't intended to signal that the federal government was going to legislate an end to the practice by airlines, but to promote what Raitt's officials called "an industry-led solution."

Still, Transport Canada officials wrote in the briefing note that they were "exploring opportunities to address this issue and input from air carriers would be useful in that regard."

There are no federal rules requiring parents to be seated next to their children on flights, nor is it a guarantee under airline policy that a parent or guardian will automatically get a seat next to children under age 12.

The Canadian Transport Agency ruled late last year that ticketing rules that don't guarantee adjoining seats for parents and their children were neither unreasonable nor discriminatory.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

President of COC steps down amid allegations of sexual harassment

Marcel Aubut has stepped down as president of the Canadian Olympic Committee and chairman of the Canadian Olympic Foundation as he is investigated for sexual harassment. Aubut asked to step away from his duties for the duration of the investigation. The 67-year-old from Saint-Hubert-de-Riviere-du-Loup, Que., says he will fully cooperate with the investigation. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Pope tells Davis: 'Stay strong'

RELIGION

Secret meeting confirmed by Vatican baffles LGBT activists

Rowan County Clerk Kim Davis said meeting the Pope with her husband has inspired her to continue to fight for her religious beliefs. TIMOTHY D. EASLEY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Defiant Kentucky clerk Kim Davis met briefly with Pope Francis during his historic U.S. visit, an encounter she said validates her crusade against gay marriage.

"He held out his hand to her and she grasped his hand," her attorney, Mat Staver, told The Associated Press. "He asked her to pray for him and she said she would; she asked the pope to pray for her, and he said he would."

The Vatican essentially confirmed the meeting: The Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, given the opportunity to deny it took place, declined to do so and said merely that he would have no comment. The Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, said the meeting was private and that no photos would be released.

Davis, an Apostolic Christian, became a protagonist in America's divisive culture wars when she defied the federal courts by refusing to license same-sex marriages despite the landmark Supreme Court ruling that effectively legalized them nationwide. She spent five days in jail until her deputies agreed to issue licences without her approval.

Davis and her husband met with Francis alone for less than 15 minutes at the Vatican Embassy in Washington, Staver said. He would not say who initiated the meeting with the pope or how it came to be, citing a desire to be "deferential to the Vatican."

> **Pope Francis needs to state clearly where he stands in regard to the inclusion of LGBT people in the church and society.**
> Francis DeBernardo

They chose to keep the meeting a secret while the pope was in the county, to avoid overshadowing his visit with the controversy that follows Davis, Staver said.

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, also referred questions back to the Vatican.

"It was really very humbling to even think that he would want to meet me or know me," Davis told ABC News. "Just knowing that the pope is on track with what we're doing and agreeing, you know, it kind of validates everything."

For some, the pope's decision to meet with a figure as divisive as Davis sullied the legacy of his celebratory visit.

DignityUSA, an advocacy group for gay and lesbian Catholics, called their meeting "deeply disappointing" and said it could transform the public perception of the trip "from a largely successful pastoral visit to the endorsement of an exclusionary political agenda."

"That Pope Francis met privately in Washington, D.C. with Kim Davis throws a wet blanket on the good will that the pontiff had garnered during his U.S. visit last week," wrote Francis DeBernardo, the executive director of New Ways Ministry, another Catholic organization that advocates for gay rights. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISIL INTERVENTION

Russia calls for unified combat

Russia followed its launch of airstrikes in Syria with a call on Wednesday for the world to unite in the fight against terrorist groups, and Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told foreign ministers of world powers that his country was circulating a draft UN Security Council resolution to help make it happen.

Secretary of State John Kerry responded by announcing that the United States is prepared to welcome Russia actions in Syria if they are directed at the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) group and al-Qaida, and promising that the U.S.-led coalition fighting ISIL in Syria would "dramatically accelerate our efforts."

Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem told the council that his country strongly endorses Russia's latest moves and called airstrikes in Syria that aren't coordinated with his government a "blatant contravention" of international law. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ARABIAN PENINSULA

U.S. Navy seizes ship hauling illicit arms

A ship carrying illicit arms believed to be from Iran was intercepted last week off the southern Arabian Peninsula by a member of a U.S.-backed naval coalition and was not registered with any country, the U.S. Navy said Wednesday.

The description of the ship's seizure conflicted in some instances with an earlier account provided by a separate Saudi-led coalition battling Yemen's Shiite rebels, which claimed in a statement carried by the state-run Saudi Press Agency that it had foiled the smuggling attempt.

The Saudi coalition alleged that Iran was using the vessel to ship arms to the rebels, charges denied by Tehran.

The U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet, based in Bahrain, said a member of the Combined Maritime Forces, a long-standing multinational coalition, intercepted the vessel in international waters last Friday.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Uncovered monument may have been for Hephaestion

An opulent underground monument in northern Greece that caused a stir when excavated last year may have been a symbolic grave — but not the final resting place of — the closest friend and general of ancient warrior-king Alexander the Great, the excavator says. Archeologist Katerina Peristeri said Wednesday she believes the vaulted structure "was a funerary monument for Hephaestion."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ohio man unaware of stolen painting hanging in home

An Ohio man says he had no idea an 18th-century painting hanging in his home for over 20 years had been looted from a Polish museum by the Nazis during World War II.

John Bobb learned that history when the FBI's Cincinnati office called in July.

Bobb was told the "Portrait of a Young Man" by Krzysztof Lubieniecki had been stolen from the National Museum in Warsaw in 1944. It's been returned to Polish officials.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIGRANT CRISIS

Relief agencies set up camp in Greece

Relief agencies have set up a tent city at Greece's border with Macedonia to cope with the growing number of migrants trying to reach central Europe ahead of winter — with some resorting to extreme measures to complete the journey.

The facilities that have been set up over the past week have a capacity of 1,000 to serve one of the busiest bottlenecks in the country, near the Greek border town of Idomeni.

In the past 24 hours, some 4,500 people arrived at the Idomeni crossing, most of them by bus from Athens, Greek police said.

Syrian English literature student Hussam Jaban, 21, told The Associated Press he swam to a Greek island from the Turkish coast to avoid paying smugglers and keep enough money for the mainland journey through Europe.

"There were 13 of us and we all made it," Jaban said.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIA

Muslim farmer beaten to death over beef-eating rumour

Indian police arrested eight people and were searching for two more Wednesday after villagers allegedly beat a Muslim farmer to death and severely injured his son upon hearing rumours that the family was eating beef — a taboo for many among India's majority Hindu population.

The mob of about 60 Hindus became incensed when a temple announced that the family had been slaughtering cows and storing the beef in their house in Bisara, a village about 45 kilometres southeast of the Indian capital of New Delhi, said District Magistrate Nagendra Pratap Singh.

He said the mob dragged 52-year-old Mohammad Akhlaq and his son from their home Monday night and beat them with sticks and bricks. Akhlaq was declared dead at a nearby hospital, while his son was being treated for serious injuries.

> **My brother was singled out. Why were we targeted? We don't eat beef.**
> Jan Mohammad Saifi, brother of Mohammad Akhlaq

Since Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a Hindu nationalist, took office last year, hard-line Hindus have been demanding that India ban beef sales — a key industry for many within India's poor, minority Muslim community. In many Indian states, the slaughtering of cows and selling of beef are either restricted or banned.

For Hindus, cows are worshipped as sacred, and many of the animals are often seen wandering unchecked around big-city neighbourhoods and on highways during rush hour.

Opposition lawmaker Shashi Tharoor said in a Twitter message that the "horrific killing shows this meat bigotry has gone out of control," and that Indians should be "free to eat what they want."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cows roam freely through the streets of India. The animal is sacred to Hindus, who form the majority of the population.
BERNAT ARMANGUE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

As part of the shift, the initiative will create 15,000 jobs domestically, and will encourage continued use of food sourced from Canadian suppliers. EUGENE HOSHIKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Serving a new experience

MCDONALD'S

Rebranded ordering options to debut by 2017

McDonald's Canada CEO John Betts says lining up to pay for the same old burger will soon be a thing of the past.

The company is overhauling the way it does business, adding self-service kiosks and bringing table service and dedicated wait staff to its restaurants.

"We are kicking off a bold plan to transform what guests experience when they visit McDonald's restaurants across Canada," says Betts. "We want our guests to walk in and be wowed by an experience that's modern and personalized, but still the McDonald's they know and love."

The new kiosks will allow customers to personalize their orders as McDonald's adds a premium burger to the menu with nearly 30 different options including five types of cheese, 12 toppings, two buns, a lettuce wrap and nine sauces.

The company says the plan will include the creation of 15,000 new jobs across the country as it adds employees who will greet customers and guide them through the ordering process.

Betts says most of the 1,400 McDonald's restaurants in Canada will be changed to the new ordering format by 2017.

The company said it is also continuing its mission to provide food that tastes good, and to use quality ingredients, many of which are sourced from Canadian suppliers. Future plans for the restaurant chain will also aim to advance McDonald's sustainability and Canadian sourcing initiatives.

> **We're innovating and evolving for the future.**
> CEO John Betts

"We always listen to our guests, and this ambitious plan is exactly what they've asked us to do," said Betts. "We're innovating and evolving for the future, and we're excited to bring our guests along on this journey with us." METRO, WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

market minute

DOLLAR
74.93¢ (+0.4¢)

TSX
13,306.96 (+270)

OIL
$45.09 US (-14¢)

GOLD
$1,115.20 US (-$11.60)

NATURAL GAS: $2.524 US (-6.2¢)
DOW JONES: 16,284.70 (+235.57)

AUTO INDUSTRY

Ford issues recall for minivans, F-150

Ford is recalling nearly 59,000 older Windstar minivans in Canada as part of a wider safety notice because the fix applied in a previous recall for a rear-axle repair might not work.

The latest recall covers 342,000 vans built at the company's Oakville, Ont., plant from 1998 through 2003 sold in both Canada and the U.S.

Ford said Wednesday that the Windstars were recalled in 2010 due to axle cracks that could grow and lead to complete failure and a crash. The company says it has reports of a small number of accidents but no injuries.

Also on Wednesday, Ford said it was recalling 37,000 F-150 pickups from the 2015 model year in the U.S. and Canada to fix a problem with the adaptive cruise control system that automatically brakes the trucks to avoid a crash.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro VIEWS

A Guadalcanal moustached kingfisher, a species unseen since 1953, was caught in the Solomon Islands. A researcher voiced doubts about the 19-year search for the bird in a place rife with human problems.

CHANTAL HÉBERT: ON THE NDP IN QUEBEC

A repeat orange wave is indefinitely on hold, and things could actually get worse for the New Democrats.

Less than a month ago, the NDP was poised to sweep Quebec for the second federal election in a row. Now, a repeat orange wave is indefinitely on hold and things could actually get worse for the New Democrats.

An Abacus poll published on Monday showed the NDP still leading the pack in Quebec, but down 17 points from a mid-September sounding. Other polls have reported a smaller drop but all concur on the trend. As the election gets nearer, Thomas Mulcair's party is falling from grace in Quebec.

There is no doubt the controversy over whether Muslim women should be required to unveil their faces to take the oath of citizenship is acting as a catalyst for the drop in party fortunes.

An overwhelming majority of Quebecers support a niqab ban. The NDP opposes it.

But the New Democrat campaign had started to lose steam before the niqab appeared on the radar, for reasons more fundamental than the pent-up passions unleashed by a Conservative play on the identity front.

From a Quebec perspective the NDP's platform is an underwhelming one.

With the provincial government's cost-cutting crusade already taking a toll on its social programs, it is hard to think of a NDP commitment more likely to miss the mark with Quebec's progressive voters than the come-hell-or-high-water determination to balance the federal books. If anything, many Quebecers are suffering from an overdose of government-imposed austerity.

From a Quebec perspective, the NDP platform is an underwhelming one.

The promise of a national universal child-care system has short legs in a province that has set up the most comprehensive program in the country on its own.

Mulcair's call to open the Constitution to abolish the Senate is similarly of limited appeal.

For one, it pits the NDP leader against Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard. He believes the Senate should be reformed, not abolished. And then there is the matter of Quebec's own long-standing constitutional agenda. Couillard insists that a round on the Senate would have to include it as well.

On that score, Mulcair did not help his cause when he told Radio-Canada two weeks ago that the premier's stance was just part of the game.

Going into the campaign, the NDP leader's Quebec trump card was the sense that he was best placed to beat Stephen Harper. More so than any federal NDP initiative, it was the party's victory in Alberta last spring that cemented Mulcair's formidable pre-campaign lead in his home province. Now the fact that the party is running third in the rest of Canada is sinking in.

At this juncture, the question on everyone's mind is whether the NDP has hit bottom in Quebec or whether it could continue to lose support between now and the vote. The short answer is that the New Democrats have no fixed floor of support in Quebec. It has yet to build a solid capital of loyalty.

Mario Dumont, the former leader of the Action Démocratique party, can testify to the perils of that.

In 2007, he came within seven seats of leading his young party to a minority victory against Jean Charest's provincial Liberals. But over the year and a half that followed, Quebecers were unimpressed by the ADQ's performance in official opposition. In an election held 20 short months after he had landed on the doorstep of provincial power, Dumont was left with only seven seats.

If the NDP is to avoid going in a similar tailspin, time is increasingly of the essence. Over the next four days, Mulcair will have his last best two opportunities to reverse the tide.

On Friday, he will take part in the last French-language debate of the campaign on the Quebec private network TVA. Then, on Sunday, Mulcair will appear on Tout le monde en parle, Radio-Canada's popular television talk show. Both events are expected to draw large audiences.

But Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau is going into the debate on more of a roll than he is, and the niqab issue that has been the NDP's nemesis in Quebec is bound to come up on both nights.

Mulcair is down two strikes. He desperately needs a home run if he wants his party to still be the Quebec home team after Oct. 19.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

THE MICROTREND: The prolific province

Ah, Saskatchewan. Wholesome, flat Saskatchewan. The province of grain growers, saskatoon berries, and ... babies? Yes. So many babies. Saskatchewan is bucking the Canada-wide trend towards an aging population. The children from this fertile land still outnumber seniors. According to a new Statistics Canada report, 19 per cent of Saskatchewanians are under 15 years old, compared to a 16 per cent average in Canada. Just 14.6 per cent of the population is 65 or older, versus 16.1 per cent nationwide. Why? In part, it's a growing population of indigenous people, who tend to skew younger and have higher fertility rates. And as for the dearth of old folks — many are retiring elsewhere to escape those cold prairie nights.

SOURCE: NEWS TALK 650/THE CANADIAN PRESS

metroview

Want to close the pay gap? Women need to talk more about money

Renee Sylvestre-Williams
For Metro

Let's talk about something we rarely talk about: salaries.

Two incidents stick out in my memory regarding salary negotiations.

The first was when I negotiating my first salary increase. I was at an online media company and had recently taken on new responsibilities and hit some pretty impressive, measurable targets. I wanted a raise because I thought I deserved one. I made an appointment to speak with my boss.

After 30 excruciating minutes, I got a two-per-cent increase with a condescending, "You should be grateful for that." I handed in my notice three months later. I couldn't work for someone who tried to make me feel bad about asking for more money.

Canadian women make significantly lower wages than men for many reasons: A shortfall of women in senior positions, a widespread fear of asking for more and a dearth of conversations at the grassroots level.

We can help each other understand what we're worth.

To close the gap, we need to talk about money. We should talk about which companies provide the best work-life balance, which have the best perks and which offer the best pay.

Yet how many of us negotiate our salaries, or have told our friends what we make? Most don't.

According to a report released in May by the WEB Alliance of Women's Business Networks, Canadian women make an average of $8,000 per year less than men in equivalent positions.

By discussing our salaries with our friends, we can tear down the systemic barriers that stop us from earning the same pay as men. We can help each other understand what we're worth.

And that's how you will get the support you're going to need when, not if, you ask for more money.

The second incident was when I was doing the hiring. We offered the candidate the full salary as budgeted. She asked for more. I told her we had offered her as much as we could afford. And I was so happy that she asked.

So, we need to have this conversation. I'll start. I freelance, so my income depends on how much work I get — but in my best year, I make close to $70,000.

Now it's your turn.

Renee Sylvestre-Williams is the publisher of the Ethnic Aisle, a digital magazine about race and ethnicity in Toronto.

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metro LIFE

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Orson Welles' personal manuscripts for Citizen Kane fetch over $102,000 at auction

Not your average chick-lit author

BOOKS

Jojo Moyes releases the sequel to 2013 bestseller

British author Jojo Moyes' latest novel After You hit shelves this week. HANDOUT

A book that wins millions of fans is a tough act to follow. And British novelist JoJo Moyes was all too aware of this as she wrote After You, the sequel to her New York Times bestseller Me Before You.

"It has been the most nerve-racking book that I've ever written," she said in an interview. "So many people feel so invested in these characters."

To say that Me Before You was an unexpected hit is an understatement.

When Moyes decided to write a romance between a caregiver and her depressed, paralyzed patient, her publisher was lukewarm.

"In hindsight I can understand why," Moyes says with a laugh. "A quadriplegic man who wants to die doesn't sound like the most compelling piece of fiction."

Except, of course, it was. Me Before You introduced the world to Louisa Clark, an endearing English everywoman. Her predictable, small-town life was blown open when she went to work for neighbour Will Traynor, a London hotshot who had been paralyzed by a traffic accident.

Their bond was intimate and powerful, but ultimately not enough to save Will from despair — and in the final pages they made the journey to Dignitas in Switzerland to end his life.

Hardly your average chick-lit plot, but then Moyes has never been your average chick-lit author.

The former journalist distinguished herself early on from the cocktail-sipping masses.

Known for her wit, humour and cultural savvy, Moyes writes against the grain, sidestepping the familiar tropes of glamorous jobs and syrupy soul mates.

"I have an absolute horror of being seen as somebody who just writes the handsome man who came in and swept her off her feet and everyone lives happily ever after, " she says. "I'm far more interested in the messy stuff."

Me Before You catapulted Moyes out of this pink ghetto and made her a bona fide literary star.

She was reviewed by serious publications and tapped by MGM to write the screenplay for Me Before You, due to hit theatres in 2016.

Most significantly for Moyes — who's had two family members require around-the-clock care — it placed her at the centre of the assisted suicide debate.

"I don't think you can hang onto a moral absolute if you are faced with the reality of that situation," she says. "The only people who know all the answers are the people who've never been faced with the questions."

Moyes began to receive daily emails from readers around the world.

"The ones that really stand out to me are from the caregivers," she says. "They get me into the same head space as Lou, which is: you don't see the disability, you see the person that you love."

The character Lou was a lightning rod for all this emotion and people clamoured to know what happened to her. Moyes found herself wondering too.

And so After You, out this week, resurrects her. The novel finds Lou holed up in London, reverting back to her old ways, leading a claustrophobic life and tending bar at an Irish-themed airport pub.

"To be part of someone taking their own life would be such a huge event, " says Moyes. "I needed to show that there was a cost to those sorts of decisions."

Lou belongs to a comical church basement grief group, The Moving On Circle, but is otherwise alone (until a surprise plot twist blows open her world once again).

"When I put myself in her shoes, I thought: What would you do? You would just be leading this very solitary existence. Because how on Earth could you justify what you've been part of to people who don't know the whole story?

"That is one of the things that intrigues me and is probably a theme that I'll return to again and again, " she says.

"How things look from the outside are not necessarily how they are."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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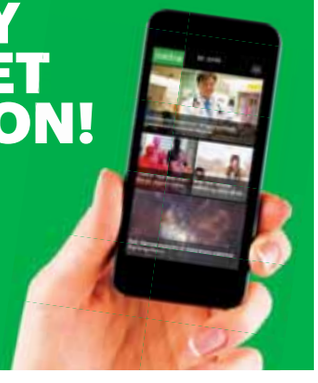

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4	6	1	2	8	7	5	9	3
3	7	5	9	1	6	2	4	8
9	8	2	4	3	5	1	6	7
1	2	7	6	4	8	9	3	5
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A modern, slightly dystopian satire

Margaret Atwood says there are no heros in The Heart Goes Last. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MARGARET ATWOOD

Latest effort 'a dark, romantic comedy'

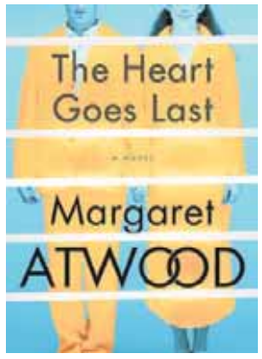
Margaret Atwood is clearly having fun.

Her latest book The Heart Goes Last, is a romp of a book featuring sex robots, Elvis impersonators and blue teddy bears that are sure to give you nightmares for weeks to come.

And she's having a blast on Twitter, of which she's a prodigious user — she's tweeted pics of herself in Vegas on the arm of a Captain Jack impersonator.

"That's the fun bit" about social media, she says, in an interview in the airy downtown Toronto offices of Penguin Random House Canada where we're talking about the book as well as the possibilities of technology.

The Heart Goes Last began on Byliner, a "boutique" website that published literary authors online. Four episodes of the



then-titled Positron series went up, but Byliner went down and the rights for the story reverted to Atwood and her Byliner editor Amy Grace Loyd suggested it become a book.

She calls it "a dark romantic comedy in which there are no heroes." But as with anything Atwood, satire ensures that even when you are having fun, you feel slightly uncomfortable.

The Heart Goes Last is a comment on current politics — on unbridled capitalism, on the trend to the conservative right, on the tough economic times being faced by young people whose employment is precarious and whose dreams of a stable job, home and family are getting tougher to attain.

It's a thoroughly modern story, yet Atwood hearkens back to Victorian times and that era's novels of manners and the 1950s. She's long had a keen interest in the history and use of prisons — what should they be used for: punishment, to pay off a debt, to reform people, to make them penitent?

"We really need to think about that because right now we have an overstuffed prison system that's full of people who probably shouldn't be there at all and they're learning to be criminals."

This gives you a clue to what she really seems to be getting at in the latest of her more than 40 books of poetry, non-fiction and fiction.

So the idea is: why not use the prison for good: Let's give everybody a job and a roof over their heads. That gives birth in the book to the Positron Project — those who sign up live happily in the town of Consilience; the only trick is they have to live in a prison every second month.

"This is a nice utopian scheme, it is a time-sharing scheme in which you play the prisoner one month and you get to be a citizen the next month."

The world of Consilience is filled with echoes of the '50s. "They structure it to be a very calming situation."

It doesn't quite work out as a panacea to society's ills, but it does provide Atwood a way of looking at human nature — both of those who are running the joint and those who have signed up to stay inside.

While she is adamant there will be no spoilers, Atwood will say "I do think absolute power corrupts, and I do think absolute temptation is very tempting if you think that nobody has oversight or can catch you doing whatever it is you're doing."

While it might seem rather hopeless, Atwood doesn't see it that way. She's compassionate, but she doesn't let us dodge personal responsibility.

Which brings us back to the sex robots.

"With each of the technologies we develop there's a good side, a dark side and a stupid side which are the effects we hadn't anticipated. It's a Pandora's box.

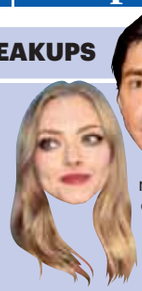
"We've discovered a lot of things that could've destroyed us and we've pulled back in time," she notes.

The technology is neutral, she says. It's what we humans do with it that counts.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

GOSSIP BREAKUPS

Long time coming



Amanda Seyfried has apparently kicked boyfriend Justin Long to the curb after two years of dating, according to Us Weekly.

"It happened a few weeks ago," a source explains. "He's really heartbroken."

Earlier this year in an interview with Vogue, Seyfried both revealed how she initially fell for Long — on Instagram, if you can believe it — and hinted that things might not be working out so well.

"I thought something he said was really funny. It was a beautiful picture of a snail, and the caption said, 'F—ing MOOOOOOOOVE.' It made me laugh out loud, so I texted him," she explained.

But: "Making movies is two solid months of 12-, 14-hour days. I mean, it can ruin your relationship." Apparently she wasn't just talking hypothetically. NED EHRBAR/METRO

Austin Green wants that green

Poor Brian Austin Green. Not only is he going through a divorce — amicable or not — with Megan Fox, but now everyone gets to see the documents showing him asking her for spousal support. TMZ got its hands on the filing this week in which Green valiantly checks the "spousal or domestic partner support" box, indicating that Fox is the bigger earner of the two. Which makes sense since Green has apparently been battling vertigo and not working much since he and Fox were in a car accident last December. Bummer, man. NED EHRBAR/METRO

O Brother, There art thou

SCREENING

Clooney and Coens reunite for film's 15th anniversary

George Clooney talks with Joel Coen on the red carpet before a special 15th anniversary screening of O Brother, Where Art Thou? during the New York Film Festival. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

George Clooney joined the Coen brothers, and co-stars Tim Blake Nelson and John Turturro at a special 15th-anniversary screening of O Brother, Where Art Thou? at the New York Film Festival.

Clooney remembered he had just left a successful TV series when the opportunity came up.

"I was an actor coming off of ER," said Clooney Tuesday night after arriving at the event. "The Coen brothers said, 'Do you want to do a movie?' And I was like, 'Yeah, I'll do a movie with the Coen brothers, are you kidding? They do great films.' I just couldn't believe my luck."

Clooney admits he felt a geographic familiarity with the characters. "I grew up in Kentucky and I kind of know these guys a little bit," he said.

Ethan Coen and his brother, Joel, wrote the screenplay, based on The Odyssey by Homer, and directed it. While the film was critically acclaimed and enjoyed moderate success, the soundtrack was a smash hit. Produced by T Bone Burnett, it was made up of artists from the American roots music scene that included Alison Krauss, Ralph Stanley, Gillian Welch and Emmylou Harris. It sold 8 million albums and earned a Grammy Award for album of the year.

Coen loved how the music and the film unexpectedly came together, but also discussed the tricky marriage of the two.

One of biggest hits from the film, I Am a Man of Constant Sorrow, sung by the fictional Soggy Bottom Boys, which included Clooney, Blake-Nelson and Turturro, does not include Clooney's voice. It was actually bluegrass musician Dan Tyminski.

Clooney told reporters he originally recorded the track, but after he came out of the recording booth, producer Burnett just put his head down and looked away. Clooney said he knew at that moment his voice was getting dubbed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RELATIONSHIPS

Ben dumps his nanny

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Hollywood

They said it was just a phase, and apparently they were right. Ben Affleck has reportedly called off his post-divorce dalliance with his and Jennifer Garner's former nanny, Christine Ouzounian — to the rejoice of spell-checkers everywhere.

"He cut ties with her recently," a source tells Life & Style. "He told Christine he couldn't handle another relationship when things were still so painful and raw between him and Jen."

Sure, that. And maybe also because you shouldn't date the nanny? I mean, I understand the siren song of convenience and all, but come on. "He had fun with (her), but it wasn't love," the source adds, wistfully.

You know who was totally surprised by this development? Ouzounian herself, apparently, who was "blindsided" by the breakup.

"When Ben finally told Christine things were over, she was pissed," another source says. "Christine is very upset and says Ben should be worried. In her mind, this is far from over."

Oh, delightful.

VEHICULAR MANSLAUGHTER

Jenner off the hook

Prosecutors declined to charge Caitlyn Jenner on Wednesday in a California car crash that killed another driver, citing insufficient evidence to support a case.

Authorities said Jenner was towing an off-road vehicle on a trailer behind a Cadillac Escalade on Feb. 7 when she crashed into two cars, pushing one into oncoming traffic. Driver Kim Howe died when her Lexus was hit by a Hummer in Malibu.

"We believed from the start that a thorough and objective investigation would clear Caitlyn of any criminal wrongdoing," said Blair Berk, Jenner's attorney. "We are heartened the district attorney has agreed that even a misdemeanour charge would be inappropriate. A traffic accident, however devastating and heartbreaking when a life is lost, is not necessarily a criminal matter."

The accident occurred before Jenner announced she is transgender and transitioned into her new identity as Caitlyn. Sheriff's investigators previously determined that Jenner, 65, was travelling at an unsafe speed for the road conditions at the time and there was enough evidence to support a vehicular manslaughter charge.

The case was then referred to the district attorney's major crimes division. A prosecutor wrote in a one-page sheet declining to file charges that Jenner was travelling slightly below the posted speed limit and began braking less than two seconds before the crash.

To prove misdemeanour vehicular manslaughter, prosecutors would have had to show Jenner was negligent and had violated a basic speed law.

metro HOME

Your essential daily news

Kate Moss ventures into interior design with retro-glamour house in Cotswolds, U.K.

What's old is new again

CONDO TRENDS

A look at historic home renos and condo conversions around Canada

Duncan McAllister
For Metro Canada

In a popular real estate trend, former warehouses, churches and industrial buildings all across Canada are being converted into lofts and condos. In addition, a number of new condo builds are incorporating a historic podium or heritage facade, serving as the base of a brand-new tower rising above.

When done right, these venerable residential transformations make for a unique and classical living space, with vaulted ceilings, sash windows, limestone features, exposed brick and period lighting fixtures — exquisite details that you just don't find in contemporary buildings.

The former Eden House at 147 East Gate in Winnipeg was built in 1885, and has a lot of the original character to it. The century home is currently up for sale. "It's got that grand old home feel; it still has the servants' quarters," says real estate agent Tannis Engel.

Originally the Arthur F. Eden house, it's the oldest standing house in Armstrong Point. "It's right in the heart of downtown in a little pocket community along the river," says Tannis. The family has owned the property for 37 years. "It's true to its original size and shape and she (current owner Roslyn Scott) has restored it as accurately as she could."

The former Eden House at Armstrong Point in Winnipeg was built in 1885, and still has a lot of its original character. ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

In Edmonton, Chandos Construction Ltd. jacked-up a five-storey heritage building, previously used as a warehouse, and built a parkade under it. No small feat under any circumstances. The Phillips Lofts at 10169-104th St. is a heritage condo conversion in Edmonton's Warehouse District.

The existing structure of the 90,000-sq.-ft. building consisted of rough-sawn timbers with a post-and-beam configuration. The Chandos design team incorporated these features to maintain the heritage of the building.

The Residences of Royal Connaught in Hamilton.

The Residences of Royal Connaught at 112 King St. E. in Hamilton, Ont., is a century-old grand hotel that has been meticulously renovated by Valery Homes and the Spallacci Group and converted into modern condominium suites.

An exquisite art-deco lobby is the centrepiece of the heritage restoration. The grand foyer opens up to 23-foot ceilings with crystal chandeliers. Designed by KNY Architects, the completed project will include three new residential towers housing 700 condominium suites in the heart of downtown.

Valery Homes president Ted Valeri says that a project of this magnitude has many challenges. They literally saved the old hotel from the wrecking ball and brought it back to life.

"We've never done anything quite so fulfilling and satisfying," Valeri says. "It's a very rewarding feeling. The Royal Connaught is a special place to Hamiltonians."

OUR CITY

Legendary Warehouse Lofts
1920 Bank St., Ottawa
Legendary Warehouse is a new condominium residence by Linden Developments with 10 storeys and 116 units. Legend has it that the building was a secret warehouse in Ottawa's south side, used to store kegs of whiskey. Currently under construction, the authentic loft-style condo spaces are industrially inspired, with a natural stone and wood lobby. The suites offer a live-work environment.

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DETAILS AT JUMPRADIO.CA

6 BATH MATS TO ADD SOME STYLE TO YOUR BATHROOM TILE

You may not be able to renovate your bathroom into a luxury spa, but you can sure as heck add some whimsy. Here are six fabulous bath mats to help absorb your drips.

Karl Lohnes
For Metro Canada

1 I Woke Up Like This Bath Mat
Empower yourself every morning. $42, Urban-Outfitters.com

2 Lacoste Memory Foam Bath Mat
Show them your luxurious preppy side. $50, TheBay.com

3 Victorian Whale Bath Mat
Invite this majestic sea creature into your bathroom for a whale of a time. $58, Anthropologie.com

4 Microdry Memory Foam #WASH Bath Mat
Hashtag your bath time for guaranteed popularity. $15, BedBathAndBeyond.ca

5 Marine Anchor Bath Mat
Lure your favourite sailor into the tub for some clean fun. $20, Simons.ca

6 Star Wars Bath Rug
Darth Vader needs to shower too. $35, Sears.ca

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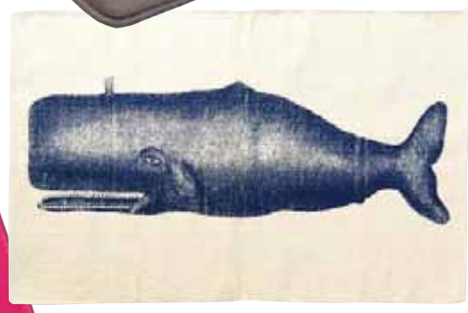

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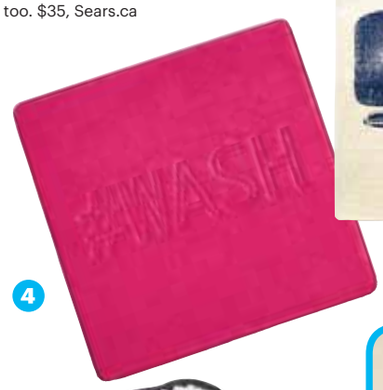

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The mistakes homebuyers make

COSTLY

First-time homebuyers can end up investing in a nightmare

Analise Smart
For Metro

Buying a home can be one of the most rewarding decisions you'll make, but make the wrong moves, and you could end up investing in a costly nightmare.

Mike Stewart, a Vancouver-based Realtor®, shares some of the most common mistakes he sees with first-time home buyers.

Research the real estate agent beforehand so you know there's expertise behind that firm handshake. SHUTTERSTOCK

Not speaking to a lender or mortgage broker first

Stewart says most people wouldn't go shopping without knowing how much money they have in the bank or available credit on their cards, and the same should apply when shopping for a home.

"A lot of first-time homebuyers get out there and say, 'OK, great, my mom says I can get a loan for $700,000. Let's go find a place," he says. "And then they spend all their time, all their family's time, all their Realtor's time, get an accepted offer on a property and after a huge big hassle it turns out they can only afford $200,000."

Talking to a mortgage broker first, he says, will let you know exactly what you're working with.

Not hiring a Realtor

Stewart says you should always get a Realtor, who will prevent you from making mistakes like overpaying. "Hiring someone who knows what they're doing and you don't have to pay them — that's worth its weight in gold," he says.

You should also make sure to research the people you will be hiring beforehand.

"The Internet is the most powerful system for doing due diligence on professionals that exists," he says. "If there's nothing on this person, they're probably not very experienced. If there's tons of stuff on this person and it's all positive, chances are you want to work with them. If it says Joe Realtor is a scumbag and he ripped me off, then you don't want to work with that person."

Not getting a home inspection

Getting a home inspection saves you from learning unpleasant truths about your home later. Stewart lists some of the possibilities that may await you should you not heed this advice.

"You buy a house with asbestos, you buy a house with mold, you buy a house that's been renovated without permits and you can't get insurance on it — if you can't get insurance, you can't get a mortgage," he says. "Basically, getting a home inspection will help you avoid buying a money pit."

Flipping versus buying

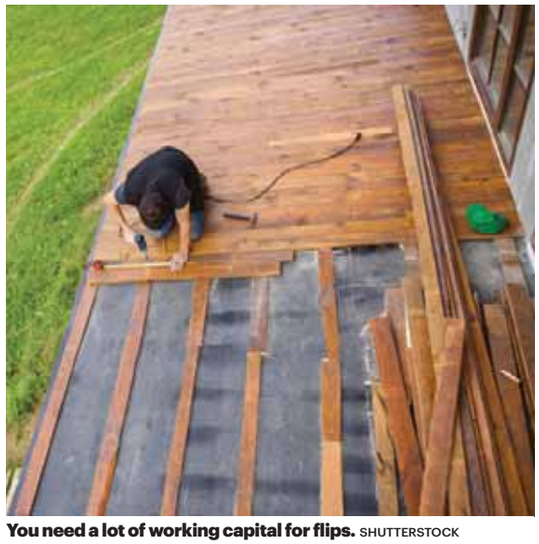
Real Estate is one of the smartest investments you can make. The long-term trend in Canada is that the value is almost certain to go up — but if you are looking for a quick turnaround, flipping may or may not be right for you.

John Stassen, a designer, contractor, renovator and former host of HGTV's The Big Flip, says buying with the intention of flipping versus a longer-term investment will call for different strategies.

When choosing a home to live in, buyers might be OK with paying a little above market value and won't want major renovations as it is just too disruptive.

Those looking to flip, however, are playing by a different set of rules.

"You're looking for the worst home on the best street, and you can't be afraid of walking away from a deal if the competition drives the price up beyond what your calculations show you can purchase it for," he says. "The most common mistakes made are underestimating the cost of the renovations and overpaying for a property you have chosen as a flip."



You need a lot of working capital for flips. SHUTTERSTOCK

Stassen says you also need a lot more working capital for flips, with projects he's worked on ranging from under $30,000 to more than $180,000.

"You will definitely need access to extra cash and/or reasonable rate financing when taking on a project," he says. "While flipping you can go months before seeing your profit on a project and you can't be left struggling to pay your own bills."

Choosing the "right" neighbourhood also becomes more important.

"The joke we had was if the area already has a Starbucks in it you'd missed the boat for flipping," he says. "The key is to find areas that are just beginning to gain popularity."

Stassen says combining traditional home purchasing and flipping can be a great strategy. "If you can afford it the approach of buying a property while residing elsewhere, renovating it then moving in for a year or more before selling can provide the best of both worlds," he says.

ANALISE SMART/FOR METRO

FROM A BROKER

Lina Porretta, a broker with Forest Hill Real Estate in Toronto, says getting financing to flip a home is not as easy as it would be for your home. "Getting a mortgage for a second property isn't as easy as borrowing for your primary residence," she says. "If you aren't able to secure traditional financing, third party lenders charge premiums." Your taxes may also be different, so Porretta advises speaking with your accountant to understand the tax implications of your purchase.

THE HOOD

How to pick the right location

Location, location, location is the home-hunter's maxim, so how to choose?

Real estate professionals say that what makes something the "right" neighbourhood is as much a personal preference as it is an intrinsic rule.

Ramin Khaze, a sales representative with Forest Hill Real Estate Inc. Brokerage in Toronto, says his advice for choosing the right neighbourhood is the same he would give about choosing the right house.

"They need to keep in mind that there is no perfect neighbourhood just like there is no perfect house," he says. "No matter where you end up you will have to sacrifice something, whether it is the commute to work or a school district for kids, or access to public transportation."

Khaze says homebuyers need to make a list of what they want, with considerations that include everything from budget, to whether they want a new home or an older one, right down to how many bathrooms are needed and what kind of finishes are desired.

Ideally you want to strike the right balance between the home you want and the neighbourhood you want, Khaze says.

"Some clients prefer to sacrifice size and living space to be more in the action …. Other clients would compromise the neighbourhood to have a house where they get what they want in size, bedrooms, land and such," he says. "It goes back what is important to you in a neighbourhood versus what is important to you in a house."

As for concerns about weighing budget against the desire to live in a particular neighbourhood, Khaze says buyers shouldn't stretch themselves too thin.

"I always tell clients to think with their heads and not their hearts, he says. "They may fall in love with a neighbourhood, but they may not end up enjoying it because they have stretched themselves so much financially they can't go out and enjoy it. You want to be comfortable in your new home and new area." ANALISE SMART/FOR METRO

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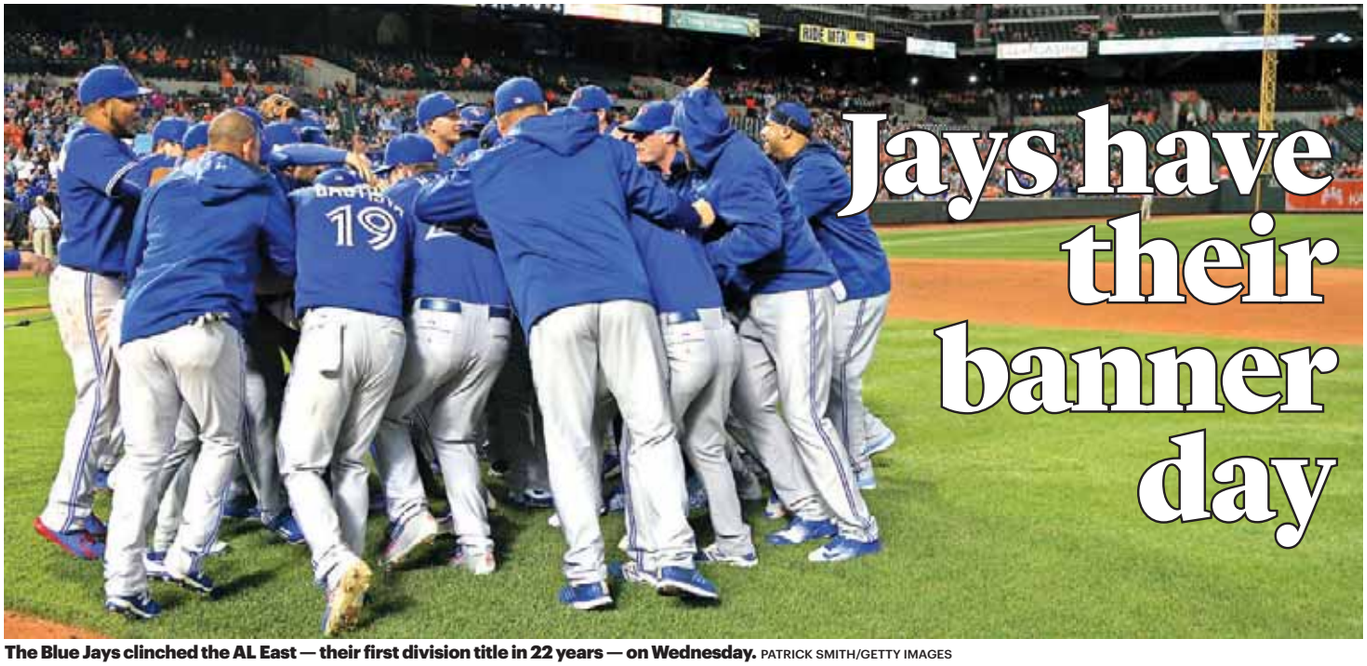
"Not to sound cocky or anything," but Adrian Peterson says he's the best running back in the NFL



Jays have their banner day

The Blue Jays clinched the AL East — their first division title in 22 years — on Wednesday. PATRICK SMITH/GETTY IMAGES

MLB

Toronto earns berth in ALDS

It wasn't the storybook scene anyone would have dreamt up: a half-empty road stadium in the first half of a doubleheader on a Wednesday afternoon.

It was a moment 22 years in the making for the Toronto Blue Jays franchise and almost a year in the making for the 2015 team. In front of an intimate crowd at Camden Yards wearing more blue than orange, the Blue Jays routed the Baltimore Orioles 15-2 to clinch the American League East.

The pennant is Toronto's first since 1993, when it won its second of back-to-back World Series titles. It assures the Blue Jays a spot in the five-game AL Division Series rather than the uncertainty of a one-game wild-card playoff.

"It's been a really long time since this city has been to the playoffs, so to do it for the City of Toronto and to do it with this group of guys, it's been a dream come true," said pitcher Marcus Stroman, who earned the win.

In late July, any kind of post-season appearance would have been welcomed, before general manager Alex Anthopoulos went all-in, trading for shortstop Troy Tulowitzki, ace David Price, outfielder Ben Revere and relievers LaTroy Hawkins and Mark Lowe at the deadline.

IN BALTIMORE

15	2
BLUE JAYS	ORIOLES

Those moves worked like a charm, taking a Blue Jays team that was 50-51 and eight games back of first place on the day Tulowitzki entered the lineup on a 42-14 run up the standings, past the New York Yankees and into October.

Winning the division seemed inevitable in recent days as the Yankees struggled and the Blue Jays kept rolling.

The final victory of that accomplishment came Wednesday with young stud Stroman on the mound in just his fourth start of the season following a torn ACL in spring training. Stroman (4-0) was masterful yet again, striking out eight and allowing just one run on five hits in eight innings.

In typical Blue Jays fashion, the most productive lineup in baseball led the way by tormenting opposing pitching. With Anthopoulos watching in the first row above the visiting dugout, the Blue Jays poured it on, scoring four runs in the fifth.

Edwin Encarnacion hit his 37th home run of the season, a two-run shot, in the seventh to get to double digits, and Jose Bautista hit his 40th in the ninth. Justin Smoak added a two-run shot to put an exclamation point on the blowout.

It was the 41st time in 157 games Toronto scored eight or more runs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

GM Alex Anthopoulos
THE CANADIAN PRESS

TIMELINE

The Blue Jays' journey to winning the division title began a year ago. Here are some pivotal moments within that span:

Nov. 1, 2014 — The Jays trade longtime first baseman/designated hitter Adam Lind to the Milwaukee Brewers for right-handed pitcher Marco Estrada.

Nov. 18, 2014 — The Jays sign three-time all-star catcher Russell Martin, a native of Toronto.

Nov. 28, 2014 — The Jays trade Canadian third baseman Brett Lawrie and prospects to the Oakland Athletics for third baseman Josh Donaldson.

July 12, 2015 — Toronto goes into the all-star break 45-46.

July 28, 2015 — In a blockbuster deal with the Colorado Rockies, the Blue Jays get shortstop Troy Tulowitzki and reliever LaTroy Hawkins.

July 30, 2015 — The trade bonanza hits its apex as the Blue Jays acquire pending free-agent ace David Price from the Detroit Tigers.

Aug. 12, 2015 — The 10th victory of an 11-game winning streak, coupled with a Yankees loss, puts the Blue Jays in first place in the AL East by a half-game.

Aug. 23, 2015 — A rout of the Angels wraps up a three-game sweep in Anaheim as the Blue Jays get back into first place.

Awards old hat for Hank

Henry Burris and the Redblacks fell 35-26 at home recently to the Toronto Argonauts. JUSTIN TANG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CFL

Player of month Burris only focused on wins late in season

Henry Burris says awards are nice, but something to think about after the season.

The 40-year-old quarterback was named the CFL's top player of September on Wednesday and while Burris appreciated the honour he says he'll be a lot happier if his Redblacks (7-5) can beat the Montreal Alouettes (5-7) Thursday night.

"I never take this award on myself because it just exposes all the great work all the guys from the coaching staff down have done … this is a tribute to all the hard work that we've put in," said Burris. "Now it's time to take the honour that we've just received and carry it over to the field that we continue to get better each and every week.

"We need to get victories on the field. Right now it's crunch time."

The Redblacks are coming off a 35-26 home loss to Toronto that moved the Argos into second place in the CFL East. With a rematch against the Argos less than a week away, Burris says it's important for Ottawa to get back on track.

Ottawa is in the midst of a weird schedule as they play three games in a span of 11 days.

"I think everyone was so focused on the three games in (11) days that we looked forward to how it's going to feel after these three games instead of focusing on the one that mattered which was Toronto and we got our butts kicked," said Burris. "Now it's time for us to respond. Everybody's waiting to see how this team is going to respond, but I foresee us coming out here and playing our butts off and doing what we can to give ourselves the best chance to get a big victory against a very good team."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **It doesn't define the whole game, but it's always good to start fast.**
> Redblacks head coach Rick Campbell is looking for a strong start after falling behind 14-0 early to the Argos last week.

WEEK 15 PICK

Alouettes at Redblacks, 7:30 p.m. ET, Thursday

Rookie Rakeem Cato starts for Montreal despite throwing two second-half interceptions — including one that was returned for a TD — in last weekend's 33-21 road loss to Saskatchewan.

Ottawa has won both meetings, including a 26-23 win Aug. 7. The Redblacks have also earned wins in three of their previous four games and are 4-2 at home.

Pick — Ottawa.

MONTREAL MOVE

Als bring in LB Muamba

The Montreal Alouettes have agreed to terms with free agent linebacker Henoc Muamba.

The former Winnipeg Blue Bomber and Indianapolis Colt was in Montreal on Wednesday for a medical examination. He will not be ready to play Thursday night against the Redblacks in Ottawa.

Muamba, 26, was drafted first overall by Winnipeg in 2011 from St. Francis Xavier University. He was the Bombers' player of the year in 2013 when he had 106 defensive tackles.

He was released in February 2014 to pursue an NFL career and signed with Indianapolis. He dressed for 13 games for the Colts last season and had six tackles.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Henoc Muamba GETTY IMAGES

Ronaldo's a Real history-maker

Cristiano Ronaldo in his familiar celebratory pose after scoring his 500th career goal. ANDERS WIKLUND/TT VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Phenomenal Portuguese passes Raul's benchmark

Cristiano Ronaldo surpassed the 500-goal mark and Real Madrid hailed him as the club's all-time leading scorer on Wednesday.

Ronaldo scored his 500th and 501st goals — in a two-nil away win at Swedish outfit Malmo — passing Raul's mark of 323 goals according to the Spanish club, which counts a goal that has officially been awarded to Pepe. UEFA said the players are still level at 323.

"I'm very happy," Ronaldo said after a game in which he scored in the 29th and 90th minutes. "First of all because the team won. But I won't lie to you. I really wanted to beat Raul's record."

The Portuguese forward took his Champions League record tally to 82 goals, five more than Lionel Messi. Here is a look at all of Wednesday's Champions League matches:

Group A
Ronaldo's brace ensured Real Madrid kept its share of the Group A lead, along with Paris Saint-Germain.

PSG eased to a 3-0 win at Shakhtar after defender Serge Aurier scored a goal and set up another. The Ivory Coast right back headed in PSG's opener in the seventh minute and served up a corner kick for David Luiz to make it 2-0 in the 23rd.

A Darijo Srna own goal in the 90th completed the victory.

Group B
All four Group B teams are now level on three points after Manchester United defeated Wolfsburg 2-1 in England and CSKA Moscow edged PSV Eindhoven 3-2 at home. Juan Mata scored one goal and set up another as United rallied to win its first group match.

Daniel Caligiuri put Wolfsburg ahead after four minutes, but Mata won and converted a penalty to equalize before halftime and Chris Smalling slotted the ball past Diego Benaglio to seal the win in the 53rd. In Russia, Seydou Doumbia scored twice as CSKA held off a second-half comeback to beat PSV 3-2.

Group C
Benfica moved into a comfortable position atop Group C with the surprise 2-1 win at Atletico Madrid, opening a three-point advantage after two matches.

Benfica has six points and Atletico has three, while Galatasaray and Astana, which drew 2-2 in Kazakhstan earlier Wednesday, have one point each.

There were three own goals in the match in Kazakhstan, including Astana's 89th-minute equalizer. It was the first game in the main stages of the Champions League to be held in the Asian nation of Kazakhstan, which has been considered part of Europe for football purposes since 2002.

Group D
Juventus and Manchester City cast aside their domestic woes to pick up important wins.

Juventus stayed ahead in Group D by defeating Sevilla 2-0 in Italy, while City's first victory came at Borussia Moenchengladbach. Manchester City moved level with Sevilla after Sergio Aguero scored a last-minute penalty to help the English side snatch a 2-1 victory in Germany.

Aguero was fouled in the 89th and sent 'Gladbach keeper Yann Sommer the wrong way to secure the win. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RESULTS

GROUP A
Malmo 0-2 Real Madrid
Shakhtar Donetsk 0-3 PSG
GROUP B
CSKA Moscow 3-2 PSV
Man United 2-1 Wolfsburg
GROUP C
Astana 2-2 Galatasaray
Atletico Mad. 1-2 Benfica
GROUP D
M'gladbach 1-2 Man City
Juventus 2-0 Sevilla

SOCCER

Hoilett commits future to Team Canada

David (Junior) Hoilett has declared to play for Canada.

The 25-year-old midfielder from Brampton, Ont., plays his club soccer for Queens Park Rangers in England's second tier. But his international future has been a question mark until now.

"I can't wait to play, put on the Canada jersey for the first time, and help the team achieve better things and progress as a nation," Hoilett said in a video interview provided by the Canadian Soccer Association.

Hoilett is also eligible to play for Jamaica by virtue of his parents. England was also a possibility by virtue of his time spent there. The speedy winger is expected to join the Canadian national team next week in Florida in advance of an a friendly against Ghana in Washington, D.C.

Benito Floro's team is preparing for the November start of the fourth round of World Cup qualifying in the CONCACAF region. Canada hosts Honduras on Nov. 13 in Vancouver before playing in El Salvador on Nov. 17.

Hoilett said he made his decision to join the Canadian fold after meeting with Floro.

Hoilett has seen limited action for QPR this season, appearing in just two cup games. British reports have linked him to a move away from the London club in recent months.

He played for Blackburn Rovers previously in England and had earlier stints with Paderborn and St. Pauli in Germany. THE CANADIAN PRESS

David (Junior) Hoilett will join Canada's men's national soccer team ahead of a friendly with Ghana. CHRISTOPHER LEE/GETTY IMAGES

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RECIPE Mushroom Barley Soup

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Whip up a pot of this simple, earthy soup and have leftovers for lunch the next day.

Ready in
Prep time: 25 minutes
Serves 6

Ingredients
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 or 3 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 onion, diced
- 2 medium carrots, peeled, diced
- 2 stalks of celery diced
- 1 lb of cremini mushrooms, brushed clean and sliced
- 2 Tbsp fresh thyme (less if using dried)
- 3/4 cup of pearl barley
- 5 cups of stock (vegetable, chicken or beef all work)
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions
1. In a large pot or Dutch oven warm up the olive oil over medium heat. Add your vegetables and thyme and allow to soften for about 3 to 5 minutes.
2. Add the barley and give it a good stir to coat it. Now pour the stock over and allow soup to simmer for about 20 minutes until the barley is tender but still chewy. Taste to check seasoning.

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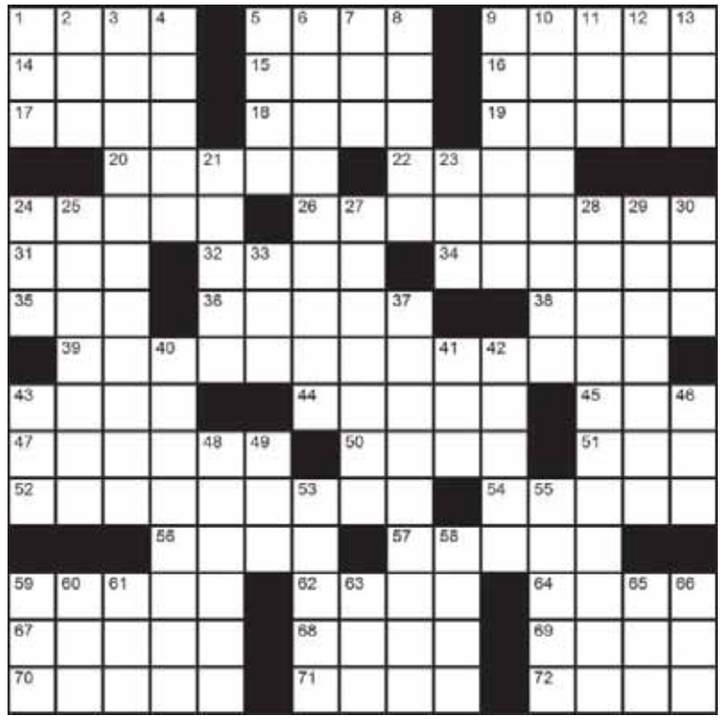
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Icelandic myth story
5. Frolic
9. Sunday song
14. Momentarily
15. Iris spot in the eye
16. Western movie
17. Saloon slurp
18. Darned
19. Small songbirds
20. More kind
22. Art for #23-Down
24. Tim Hortons _ (Curling championship)
26. Car trunk item: 2 wds.
31. So far
32. University for 2016 Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton
34. TV teasers
35. Spring month, briefly
36. Ironed pants line
38. Canadian composer Mr. MacDermot
39. Moose Jaw's nickname: 2 wds.
43. Nickname of Montreal's 1976 Summer Games stadium: wd. + letter
44. Kangaroo jacket feature
45. Passports, e.g.
47. Nose, slang-style
50. Expanse
51. Mesh
52. Launches an attack on the castle
54. Like linen-making fibre
56. Old currency
57. Harped on
59. Ancient language
62. Pad _ (Noodle dish)
64. Farm sound effect
67. Aristocracy
68. Dog playthings
69. Bygone time
70. Carries out the commands
71. Highlands tongue
72. Forensic IDs

DOWN
1. Twisty turn
2. _ Jones Industrial Average
3. "_' _ _": Hit by #9-Down that continues "...on the wrong side of town!"
4. Rolling Stones classic
5. Sly tactic
6. Don't respond to the alarm clock
7. Kitten cry
8. "Kung Fu _" (2008)
9. As per #3-Down... The _ Blues (Band from Vancouver)
10. _ Springs (New York state racetrack locale)
11. Corroded
12. Mr. Kravitz, for short
13. Simon & Garfunkel's "_. Robinson"
21. Creepy chamber
23. Alsatian artist Jean
24. _ _ landslide
25. Painting like the real painting
27. Fall fashion classic: 2 wds.
28. Cloud of creativity
29. Contacts index on a classic office desk
30. "C'_ la vie!"
33. "_ My Children"
37. Week parts each week
40. Relationship to the keynote in music
41. Frost
42. Fray
43. Graduate's degree, e.g.
46. Swine spot
48. Supposes
49. Switzerland's largest city [abbr.]
53. Frothy-topped hot beverage
55. Andrew Webber link
58. Smart
59. Horoscope roarer
60. Vatican vestment
61. Affiliation
63. Vertical opp.
65. Firearms org. in The States
66. "Star Trek: Voyager" role

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Your imagination is so powerful there is a danger you could let your fears get out of hand. There are two ways to deal with your current dilemma: either do something about it or act as if it does not exist.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Someone will go out of their way for you today, which makes you suspicious. What are they after? What's in it for them? The question you should be asking is: why can't I just accept that some people are nice by nature?

Gemini May 22 - June 21
What occurs today will help you see things in perspective. It will also remind you that life is too short to waste on things that don't matter.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You may be under the impression that you can say anything to anyone and get away with it but don't be so sure. You seem to be under divine protection but it could rapidly be withdrawn.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You ought to make it up to someone you've been neglecting. That's fine but don't be too generous — what others want most is your attention, they don't care about cash.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You will be hugely responsive to other people's moods but you need to take care that their negative feelings don't start having a negative effect on you. Erect an emotional wall.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Some things are best left in the realms of fantasy. Having a dream is one thing but what if, when it comes true, you find it is really a nightmare? Stick to reality, it's safer.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You won't lack for compassion today but you may lack for common sense. Don't let others fool you into thinking that you are doing the right thing, when in fact the real right thing is to leave well alone.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Try to impress, especially people who can help with your ambitions, but don't go too far and claim you can deliver results that are really way beyond you. Even a Sag has limits.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Don't let rivals undermine your confidence today, especially on the work front where a setback has already put a dent in your morale. You will soon be moving up again.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Try not to let others know too much about what you are doing. Knowledge is power and the more knowledge you give away the less power you have for yourself.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Relationships will generally go well today but be wary of anyone whose attitude towards you goes from one extreme to the other in a matter of minutes. It could be they are trying to confuse you for their own benefit.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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3				6				1

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2015 CRUZE LS 1SA

0% PURCHASE FINANCING FOR **84** MONTHS[1] **+ $2,000** IN TOTAL FINANCE CASH[2]

(INCLUDES $1,000 OWNER CASH)

ALL 2015s COME WITH CHEVROLET COMPLETE CARE: **2** YEARS/40,000 KM COMPLIMENTARY OIL CHANGES** / **5** YEARS/160,000 KM POWERTRAIN WARRANTY▲ / **5** YEARS/160,000 KM ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE▲

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VEHICLE PRICING IS NOW EASIER TO UNDERSTAND BECAUSE ALL OUR PRICES INCLUDE FREIGHT, PDI AND MANDATORY GOVERNMENT LEVIES. Prices do not include applicable taxes and PPSA. Consumers may be required to pay up to $799 for Dealer fees.***

For the latest information, visit us at chevrolet.ca, drop by your local Chevrolet Dealer or call us at 1-800-GM-DRIVE. **1** 0% purchase financing offered by GMCL for 84 months on 2015 Chevrolet Cruze LS 1SA. O.A.C by RBC Royal Bank/TD Auto Finance Services/Scotiabank. Rates from other lenders will vary. Example: $10,000 at 0% APR, monthly payment is $119.05 for 84 months. Cost of borrowing is $0, total obligation is $10,000. Down payment and/or trade may be required. Monthly/bi-weekly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. **2** $2,000 is a combined credit consisting of $1,000 Owner Cash (tax inclusive) and $1,000 manufacturer to dealer finance cash (tax exclusive) for a 2015 Cruze which is available for finance offers only and cannot be combined with special lease rates and cash purchase. **3** $4,000 is a combined total credit consisting of $1,000 Owner Cash (tax inclusive) and a $3,000 manufacturer to dealer cash credit (tax exclusive) for a 2015 Cruze (excluding LS 1SA) which is available for cash purchases only and cannot be combined with special lease and finance rates. By selecting lease or finance offers, consumers are foregoing this $3,000 credit which will result in higher effective interest rates. Discounts vary by model and cash credit excludes Cruze LS 1SA. **1/2/3**/***Freight & PDI ($1,600/$1,600), registration, air and tire levies and OMVIC fees included. Insurance, licence, PPSA, dealer fees and applicable taxes not included. Offers apply as indicated to 2015 new or demonstrator models of the vehicle equipped as described. Offers apply to qualified retail customers in the Ontario Chevrolet Dealer Marketing Association area only (including Outaouais). Dealers are free to set individual prices. Quantities limited; dealer order or trade may be required. Limited time offers which may not be combined with other offers. GMCL may modify, extend or terminate offers in whole or in part at any time without notice. Conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details. ΔEPA estimated. ◊Government 5-Star Safety Ratings are part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program (www.safercar.gov). ®Bluetooth is a registered trademark of Bluetooth SIG Inc. ††2015 Cruze LTZ, MSRP with freight, PDI & levies: $28,639. Dealers are free to set individual prices. **The 2-Year Scheduled Lube-Oil-Filter Maintenance Program provides eligible customers in Canada, who have purchased, leased or financed a new eligible 2014 MY Chevrolet, Buick or GMC vehicle (excluding Spark EV), with an ACDelco oil and filter change, in accordance with the oil life monitoring system and the Owner's Manual, for 2 years or 40,000 km, whichever occurs first, with a limit of four (4) Lube-Oil-Filter services in total, performed at participating GM Dealers. Fluid top-offs, inspections, tire rotations, wheel alignments and balancing, etc. are not covered. This offer may not be redeemed for cash and may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives available on GM vehicles. General Motors of Canada Limited reserves the right to amend or terminate this offer, in whole or in part, at any time without prior notice. Additional conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details. ▲Whichever comes first. See dealer for limited warranty details.